

Questionnaire to the Canons assisting in the process of ministry discernment

Walk Into the Future is a listening and visioning process designed to gather learning and develop insight into what our current discernment processes and practices are across The Episcopal Church, and to imagine possible futures for discernment to ordained ministry (read the press release [HERE](#)).

With a grant from **Trinity Church**, New York, **The Society for the Increase of the Ministry (SIM)** has designed a series of churchwide opportunities for those invested in and effected by discernment processes. This is a grassroots engagement of the Church in a process of listening, learning, supporting and visioning possible futures for discernment to and preparation for ordained ministry.

The project begins with an electronic questionnaire with three parts first of which is for the bishops to complete. Part 2 is for the canons assisting in the process of ministry discernment to complete. Part 3 is for the members of the Commission on Ministry to complete.

Preliminary learnings from the questionnaire will be shared in a report compiled by SIM and available by the time of the General Convention in June of 2024.

All of the individual responses that you provide will be treated as confidential and only aggregate data will be shared publicly.

* Indicates required question

1. Email *

The original deadline for completing this questionnaire was March 25, 2024. We are keeping it open and ask that you submit your response at your earliest opportunity. For further information or feedback, please contact us at info@walkintothefuture.church

All of the individual responses that you provide will be treated as confidential and only aggregate data will be shared publicly.

2. 1. Your name: *

3. 2. Your diocese: *

4. 3. We are interested in knowing more about how your discernment process is structured and how it operates. Please attach an electronic copy of any diocesan documents describing the process. *

If you don't have diocesan documents describing the discernment process, please describe it in your own words in a Word document and upload it.

Files submitted:

5. 4.1. Please provide below the data for the number of aspirants in the discernment process for ordination in your diocese by year (combined priests and vocational deacons): *

in 2019

in 2020

in 2021

in 2022

in 2023

6. 4.2. Please provide below the data for the number of aspirants in the discernment process for ordination attending full-time residential seminary in your diocese by year (combined priests and vocational deacons): *

in 2019

in 2020

in 2021

in 2022

in 2023

7. 4.3. Please provide below the data for the number of candidates ordained in your diocese by year (combined priests and vocational deacons): *

in 2019

in 2020

in 2021

in 2022

in 2023

8. 4.4. Please provide below the data for the number of laity seeking licensing for ministry in your diocese by year: *

in 2019

in 2020

in 2021

in 2022

in 2023

9. 4.5. Please provide below the data for the number of newly ordained clergy deployed within your diocese by year (combined priests and vocational deacons): *

in 2019

in 2020

in 2021

in 2022

in 2023

10. 5. Think of someone you know that you consider a very strong ordained leader. *
Describe their most important qualities.

11. 6. What resources are available in your diocese to assist people discerning a possible call to ordained ministry? *

12. 7. What resources are available in your diocese to assist the baptized in discerning their gifts for ministry? *

13. 8. From your experience, do you think current seminary programs are adequate for *
training ordained leaders of the church?

14. 9. Do you have a diocesan school for ministry? If yes, please describe the *
curricula and who attends.

15. 10. Do you currently offer training for members of your Commission on Ministry? *
If so, please describe.

16. 11. If you could resource the members of your Commission on Ministry in new ways, what would you aspire to do in support of their work? *

17. 12. Are you concerned that you will have sufficient ordained leadership to cover the needs of your diocese for the next 5-10 years? *

18. 13. Do you have concerns that there are barriers to those who seek ordination, particularly for those who are younger, and/or from diverse backgrounds? *

19. 14. Are you aware of SIM as a financial resource for seminarian scholarships? *

20. 15. If there was an opportunity to join participants from other dioceses at a gathering exploring the discernment process and visioning for the future, would you be interested in attending? *

21. 16. Is there anything else you would like to say about the discernment processes of your diocese and/or the Episcopal Church? *

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