

# Questionnaire to the Commission on Ministry members

**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.*

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\* Indicates required question

1. Email \*

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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](mailto: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: \*

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3. 2. Your diocese: \*

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4. 3. Tell us about yourself (age, gender, race, etc.) \*

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5. 4. Tell us about the church you attend and/or serve. \*

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6. 5. Tell us your story of being asked to serve as a member of the Commission. \*

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7. 6. What gifts do you bring to this work? \*

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8. 7. What inspires you about this work? \*

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9. 8. Think of someone you know whom you consider a very strong ordained leader. \*  
Describe their most important qualities.

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10. 9. How would you describe your approach to assisting a person in their process of \*  
ministry discernment?

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

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12. 11. Do you have conversations about finances with the aspirants/postulants/candidates? Do you know of The Society for the Increase of the Ministry (SIM) as a funding resource? \*

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13. 12. Does your Commission have conversations about diversity? \*

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14. 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? \*

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15. 14. Have you had or would you like to have training for this role? \*

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16. 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? \*

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17. 16. Please describe your Commission's process of assessment of the readiness of persons for ordained ministry. \*

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18. Please attach here if there are any documents describing the Commission's rules for its work, organizational charts and/or training documents.

Files submitted:

19. 17. 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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