

# “Here I Am” Vocational Discernment Program 2025

## Introduction and Overview

The “Here I Am” vocational discernment program has been expanded to eight parts over the course of January to March, rather than one long day. It includes seven weeks of preparation and exploration leading up to the typical content of the “Here I Am” Day (which would be the 8th session). While sponsoring clergy need only attend the 8th session (**March 8th**, 1pm-4pm), they are expected to have conversations with their discerners once a week (8 hours total) throughout the process, and will be given tools to deepen those conversations and help make them more fruitful.

### Purpose:

- To give discerners space to notice God’s activity throughout their life and their story, and to explore what that might illuminate about vocation
- To give space for the exploration of potential discerners’ own spiritual gifts and how they might be used in many ways in ministry
- To give an overview of Episcopal liturgy, polity, history, and practices of discipleship
- To provide potential discerners with a clearer picture of the breadth of ministry across the Church
- To provide a community of fellow sojourners for discussion and support
- To provide resources for parish priests as they help potential discerners discover their vocation

Sponsoring Clergy: will commit to having a conversation with their discerner once a week through the duration of the program, for a total of 8 sessions (~1 hr per session) of conversations between January and March. They will commit to attending the 8th session (**March 8th**, 1pm-4pm), with their discerner.

Potential Discerners: will commit to 7 sessions (Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 pm, beginning **January 8th**), interim session work, 8 hours of conversations with their sponsoring clergy, and attending the 8th session (**March 8th**, 1pm-4pm) with their sponsoring clergy. All sessions on Zoom, except March 8th, at Cathedral.

## Session Overview

### **Session 1: Exploring Ministry, Giftedness, Ordination** (January 8th)

Clergy Conversation: Sharing God Stories

Pre-work: read articles & Scripture

Live Session: Welcome, Overview. Scripture study of “the priesthood of all believers”. Small Groups on Introductions & God Stories. Scripture Study of Spiritual Gifts.

### **Session 2: Discernment Lenses** (Jan 15th)

Pre-Work: Review online teaching on Spiritual Gifts & Spiritual Gifts Assessment

Clergy Conversation: share about spiritual gifts and envision how they might be used in ministry

Live Session: Teaching on several different lenses through which to dig into vocation. Small Groups on personal timelines/themes of God working

### **Session 3: Scripture** (January 22nd)

Pre-Work: Exploring several Scriptural “call” stories

Clergy Conversations: about which call story they relate to and why

Live Session: Themes of call from Scripture, Small Group Time responding to call stories and what resonates in their own story

Homework (Due Jan 29th): Finish Discernment Lenses

**Session 4: Exploring Community** (Feb 5th)

Pre-Work: Interview someone in their faith community about vocation; interview someone in their faith community about their own giftedness and vocation

Clergy Conversation: about those who are living into their giftedness and vocation

Live Session: Small Group Time responding to what has been learned through interviews

**Session 5: The Episcopal Church & Piety** (Feb 12th)

Pre-Work: ChurchNext modules (1) TEC with Bp Frank Wade and (2) Scripture with Archbishop Welby

Clergy Conversation: about TEC and why they are a part of it, and about the spiritual discipline of Scripture reading and when it has been life-giving

Live Session: Small Group time responding to Scripture and personal piety

**Session 6: Ministries** (Feb 19th)

Pre-Work: Watch video interviews of ministry leaders across the Diocese; explore websites of ministries that spark interest

Clergy Conversation: on learnings and how it might illuminate vocation. Connect to ministries to explore.

Live Session: Small groups reflecting on what they learned, what resonated with them

**Session 7: Ministries** (Feb 26th)

Pre-work: Explore/serve in servant ministries that spark interest

Live Session: Small groups on ministries explored and learnings, evaluation of the process

Homework: Pray about the journey to continue discerning toward ordination

Clergy Conversation: on learnings and how it might illuminate vocation; discuss attending Here I Am Day.

**Session 8: Here I Am Day** (March 8th, 1pm to 4pm)

- Bishop's address on Discernment and "Here I Am"
- Info about PCOM process, etc.
- Sponsoring Clergy attend this session

Clergy Conversation: about next steps

**PCOM Chair Training** (April 19th)

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