The following provides a framework for a 12-session study with a Congregational Discernment Committee, using resources in the *Book of Common Prayer* (BCP) and in Scripture. Following this outline (beginning on page 4) are suggested questions to stimulate discussion for each session.

I. The Church

1. Thanksgiving to God for Parish Life in Christ
   - **Collect**
     - “For the Unity of the Church” BCP pg. 255
   - **Scripture**
     - Deuteronomy 7:6-8
     - Colossians 3:12-17
     - 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
   - **Reading**
     - An Outline of the Faith (The Catechism) BCP pg. 854-855
     - The Sacraments BCP pg. 857-858
   - **Prayer**
     - “A Litany of Thanksgiving” BCP pg. 836-837

2. The Ministry of the Laity
   - **Collect**
     - The Prayer – Confirmation Service BCP pg. 418
   - **Scripture**
     - Deuteronomy 10:12-15
     - 1 Corinthians 12:12-28
     - Ephesians 4:1-16
     - Matthew 28:16-20
   - **Reading**
     - The Catechism BCP pg. 861-862
   - **Prayer**
     - A Song of Creation BCP pg. 88

II. The Ordained Ministry

1. The Ordination of a Priest
   - **Collect**
     - For the Ministry II BCP pg. 256
   - **Scripture**
     - Isaiah 6:1-8
     - Ephesians 4:7, 11-16
     - or 1 Peter 5:1-4 or Philippians 4:4-9
     - Matthew 9:35-38 or John 6:35-38; 10:11-18
   - **Reading**
     - The Ordination of a Priest BCP pg. 531-532
     - The Examination
   - **Prayer**
     - The Litany for Ordinations BCP pg. 548-550

2. The Ordination of a Deacon
   - **Collect**
     - For the Ministry II BCP pg. 256
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scripture</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Prayer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jeremiah 1:4-9 or Ecclesiasticus. 39:1-8, Psalm 84 or 119:33-40, 2 Cor. 4:1-6 or 1 Tim. 3:8-13 or Acts 6:2-7</td>
<td>The Ordination of a Deacon, The Examination</td>
<td>The Litany for Ordinations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. The Pastoral Ministry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collect</th>
<th>Scripture</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Prayer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Prayer of Self-Dedication</td>
<td>Isaiah 55, 1 Corinthians 4, 1 Peter 5:1-11, Matthew 7:7-12</td>
<td>The Celebration of a New Ministry: The Induction and Prayer</td>
<td>A Prayer attributed to St. Francis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. The Priesthood

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collect</th>
<th>Scripture</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Prayer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For the Ministry I</td>
<td>1 Samuel 2:35, Hebrews 4:14-5:10, John 15:1-17</td>
<td>The Ordination of a Priest, The Consecration</td>
<td>Christ Our Passover</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. The Diaconate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collect</th>
<th>Scripture</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Prayer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For Social Service or Vocation in Daily Work</td>
<td>Isaiah 42:1-4 or Isaiah 52:13-53; 12:13, 1 John 4:7-12, Matthew 25:31-46</td>
<td>The Ordination of a Deacon: The Consecration</td>
<td>The Song of Simeon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. The Cost of Ministry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collect</th>
<th>Scripture</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Prayer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

7. The Discipline of Ministry
Collect    Second Sunday of Easter   BCP pg. 224
Scripture  Exodus 20:1-20
           1 Corinthians 9:16-27
           John 21:15-19
Reading    The Catechism
           The Ministry   BCP pg. 855-856
Prayer     The Song of Zechariah   BCP pg. 92

III. Prayer and Ministry

1. The Prayer of Union
   Collect     Of a Saint III   BCP pg. 250
   Scripture   2 Chronicles 6:12-21
               John 17
   Reading     The Catechism
               God the Son   BCP pg. 849-850
   Prayer      The Second Song of Isaiah   BCP pg. 86

2. Prayer for One Another
   Collect     Proper 22   BCP pg. 234
   Scripture   Ephesians 1:15-23; 3:14-19
               Philippians 1:3-11
               Colossians 1:9-23
               2 Thessalonians 1:11-12
   Reading     The Catechism
               The Holy Spirit   BCP pg. 852-853
               Prayer and Worship   BCP pg. 856-857
   Prayer      The Solemn Collects: Good Friday   BCP pg. 277-280

3. The Faithfulness of God
   Collect     For Quiet Confidence   BCP pg. 832
   Scripture   Lamentations 3:21-33
               Romans 8:31-39
               Matthew 5:1-12; 6:19-34
   Reading     The Catechism
               Human Nature   BCP pg. 845-846
               God the Father   BCP pg. 846
   Prayer      You are God   BCP pg. 95
A Suggested Outline for Study and Discussion Sessions in the Congregational Discernment Process
Commission on Ministry, Diocese of Hawai‘i
(Adapted from the Diocese of Colorado)

The following questions may be helpful for each of the sections. They are intended to assist in opening possible areas of consideration. Most do not have any “right” answers, but are only meant to stimulate thought and discussion.

I. The Church
   1. Thanksgiving to God for Parish Life in Christ
      • What does it mean to be God’s chosen people? Chosen for what?
      • How does a group of people become “bound together in love by the one Spirit?” What does this mean?
      • What is the relationship of individual and communal discernment of God’s will for our lives?
      • Why did the disciples on the road to Emmaus not recognize Jesus? What may have gotten in the way? What gets in the way for us?

   2. The Ministry of the Laity
      • How have we discerned God’s will for us in our own present vocations?
      • What are our responsibilities as Christians in our present vocations?
      • What gifts do we have that could add to the unity and wholeness of the Body of Christ?
      • How can we be more open to Christ’s presence with us?

II The Ordained Ministry
   1. The ordination of a Deacon and a Priest
      • In what way do the ministries of all the baptized, the diaconate and the priesthood differ from one another?
      • What are some indications of being “called” to any particular vocation? To the ordained ministry?
      • What kind of leader is a shepherd? What qualities are needed to be a dictator? To be an example?

   2. The Pastoral Ministry
      • What are “pastoral “responsibilities”?
      • How can one’s image of God and relationship with God affect pastoral ministry?
      • Is there a difference in the call to pastoral ministry for the laity and the ordained ministry? If so, what is it?

   3. The Priesthood
      • What makes a priest? What can we learn from Jesus as High Priest about the role of priest?
      • Is there a role for priest in areas other than specific “parish work” and if
so, in what ways?
• What does it mean, and what difference does it make that it is Christ who chooses us first and not we who first choose Christ?

4. The Diaconate
• What makes a deacon? What can we learn from Jesus as Servant Lord about the ministry of a deacon?
• If we are all called to be engaged in serving others (diakonia), why should deacons be ordained?
• How do deacons carry on Christ’s Servant Ministry?

5. The Cost of Ministry
• How can we differentiate “taking up your cross” versus being a self-styled martyr (developing a martyr syndrome)? What are the differences in attitude?
• How are Christ’s instructions to the apostles related to taking up one’s cross, surrendering one’s willfulness?
• In what way does the news that we are reconciled make us a new creation? How in our own lives does this good news relate to taking up our own crosses?
• What is the relationship of “taking up your cross” to self-examination and increased self-awareness?

6. The Discipline of Ministry
• In what way do our lives reflect the new covenant of reconciliation?
• How do we reflect God’s place in our lives? How do we feed Christ’s sheep?
• In what way can we prepare ourselves and nourish ourselves for being ministers of the new covenant?

III Prayer and Ministry
1. The Prayer of Union
• With whom (or what) do we desire to become united in prayer of union?
• What are some ways we can open ourselves to, or increase our awareness of, the presence of God, Christ, within us?
• In what way can the prayer of silence, non-verbal or listening prayer be a prayer of union – with God – with others?

2. Prayer for One Another
• What are some ways we recognize the Holy Spirit within others, within creation, within ourselves?
• How can we increase our awareness of the needs of others, rather than our own projections of what we think they need?
• What are various types of intercessions used in your own verbal or non-verbal prayer for others, and for yourself? What has been most helpful?

3. The Faithfulness of God
• In what way can “sitting in solitude and silence” increase awareness of God’s faithfulness, God’s love?
• What are some of the ways we learn how to trust in God?
• What are some of the experiences you have had which have increased your faith and trust in God?