



40 DAYS OF DISCERNMENT

a congregational program for choosing a way forward

:: What is 40 Days of Discernment?

40 Days of Discernment™ is intended to be a parish process that engages us to seek the Lord's will for our place within the Anglican Communion, as well as our expressed relationship with The Episcopal Church USA. The process is designed to be one that:

- ◆ Encourages parishioners to seek Jesus Christ personally and in community;
- ◆ Through the Word, and the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit;
- ◆ Through prayer and fasting;
- ◆ In honesty, openness and sincere faith; and,
- ◆ With compassion for one another.

:: Why 40 Days of Discernment?

Many of us are in different places in this discussion. There are those of us who are newcomers to Anglican Christianity and simply long to get on with the Gospel mission. Others have grown up and lived their entire lives in the Episcopal Church. For some, the direction ahead is clear. For others, it is a painful and difficult road. Our intention to engage in 40 Days of Discernment™ represents our parish's desire to engage our entire community in one of the most important decisions we will ever make/ We wish to do this in a way that is both compassionate and Christ-centered. In the end, it is not what we want to do that matters. It is the Lord's will that we seek. This process represents a serious attempt to seek His will in this challenging time.

:: How Does it Work?

The intention is to seek consensus—not complete accordance with individual desires—but rather true, corporate consensus toward our best direction during these times

of complexity, confusion and change. The vision is simple: we will come together to study the scriptures, pray with one another, listen to each other, and seek to hear and trust the Lord together as the body of Christ. 40 Days of Discernment™ includes the following tools:

- ◆ Small Groups
- ◆ Weekly Sermons
- ◆ Daily Reflections and Prayer
- ◆ Special Worship Gatherings
- ◆ Openness to Parish Feedback
- ◆ Congregational Meetings
- ◆ A Week of Prayer and Fasting

:: What Materials are Available?

40 Days of Discernment™ centers around a 40 Days Guidebook, with content written by local Christian thinkers on critical topics of concern. The guidebook is designed to facilitate small group discussion and includes thoughtful presentations on the following topics:

- ◆ Understanding the Crisis
- ◆ The Importance of Being Anglican
- ◆ An Intractable Conflict?
- ◆ Truth and Unity
- ◆ Grieving, Healing, and Change
- ◆ Choosing Our Future

Additional materials will be available at the Vestry table on a regular basis, including book lists, white papers, news announcements and other literary resources

:: What Do I Need to Do?

Engage in the process by joining a small group and committing yourself to seeking the Lord in study, prayer and community.

Simply complete this tear-out section and submit it to the Vestry table and you will be registered in a small group.

Yes, I want to participate in a 40 Days of Discernment Small Group!

Name: _____ Home phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Work/cell phone: _____

Home Address: _____

I plan to attend a small group on Sunday morning: _____ 8:30 a.m. _____ 10:00 a.m.

I am interested in attending a small group before the Saturday night service.*

I am participating through my Home Church Group.

Choose a group from the list (available at the Vestry Table) and indicate host name: _____

I plan to attend a Wednesday evening* small group at Truro (7:30 p.m.).

*Childcare available upon request.

? If you have questions or need help contact us at:
jimwilkinson@cox.net or 703.425.0419

::Important Dates

Informational Meeting & Small Group Kickoff
September 10

40 Days of Discernment
September 17–October 22

Congregational Meeting
October 29

Week of Prayer and Fasting
October 29–November 5

::Who to Contact

Small Groups

Jim & Nancy Wilkinson
jimwilkinon@cox.net
703.425.4019

Volunteers

Heidi Marshall
heidimarshall@gmail.com
703.684.8221

Vestry Representative

Jim Oakes, Senior Warden
vestry@trurochurch.org
703.352.6545

“What I like about this 40 Days of Discernment program is that it weaves the best of our catholic and evangelical roots in Anglicanism. There is the evangelical emphasis on inductive Bible study and an obvious fervent belief in the living God. But there is also the catholic emphasis on the classic spiritual disciplines of prayer and fasting, and on discerning God’s will in a group instead of just as individuals. I commend this program to your congregation.”

—the Rev. Canon Dr. Kendall Harmon
Diocese of South Carolina

“I am excited to see this grassroots program emerge. As the Anglican Communion Network’s “Hope and a Future” conference made clear, God is active in a new Anglican reformation. And in order to discern how we can best participate in what God is doing, we need to hear God’s voice. To do just that, I hope as many congregations as possible will engage in an intentional season of discernment.”

—the Rev. Canon Daryl Fenton
Anglican Communion Network

“Many congregations were extremely patient and charitable in waiting for the Episcopal Church to comply with the Windsor Report and to choose to walk with the Anglican Communion. ECUSA has now chosen. It is clear that the Episcopal Church leadership has no intention of repenting and turning back from its revisionist agenda. Congregations must now discern how they will choose to respond. The 40 Days of Discernment program will help congregations to make that determination in a prayerful, biblical, and healthy way led by the Holy Spirit.”

—the Rev. Canon Ellis Brust
American Anglican Council



Truro Church

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