



The Episcopal
Church in
Alabama

PARISH DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE SAMPLE SCHEDULE & AGENDA

This discernment process should last no less than six months, meeting a minimum of six hours.

Each committee will be giving a Commission on Ministry Liaison who can help advise and equip the Committee to carry out their work with intentionality and faithfully. The Committee Leader and Applicant should schedule a meeting (in-person or via Zoom) with their COM Liaison as the committee is forming to discuss best practices and troubleshoot any issues. The liaison will then be available to consult with the committee and/or applicant should any questions or issues arise over the course of the parish discernment process.

Session 1: Introductions & Spiritual Autobiography

- Opening Prayer
- Getting to Know You Games & Icebreakers
- Set Group Norms
 - o Resource: [Discernment Listening Guidelines](#)
- Discuss Applicant's Spiritual Biography
- Set meeting schedule
- Closing Prayer

Session 2 – 4: Listening Hearts Study

- Opening Prayer & Bible Study, led by Applicant
- Discussion of *Listening Hearts*
 - o Additional Resource: [Listening Hearts Program Materials – 13 Topics](#)
- Explore some of the Questions for Applicants and Nominees to Consider
- Closing Prayers

Session 5: Deeper Discernment

- Opening Prayer & Bible Study, led by Applicant
- Using *Listening Hearts* Appendix 1 & 2, spend some time discerning the applicant's call to ministry

- The Applicant and Leader might need to spend extra time in preparation for these meetings
 - Pay particular attention to pages 91-97 in the *Listening Hearts* book
- Explore some of the Questions for Applicants and Nominees to Consider
- Closing Prayer

Session 6: Thank Yous & Goodbyes

- Special Closing Worship
- Final thoughts, questions, concerns regarding the committee's sense of the Applicant's Call to Ministry
- Finish up exploration of the
- Thank yous & Goodbyes
- Closing Prayer