

# Questionnaire to Diocesan Bishops

**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. Please, describe in 1-2 paragraphs your vision for your diocese over the next 5 years (*optional*).

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5. 4. What are your greatest concerns regarding leadership recruitment (lay/ordained), \*  
discernment, education, and deployment?

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6. 5. How does your approach to the discernment process potentially impact your \*  
vision for the diocese?

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7. 6. How do you see your approach to the discernment process impacting recruitment and deployment? \*

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

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9. 8. 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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10. 9. If you could send a diverse team of 3 stakeholders in the discernment processes from your diocese to a larger gathering examining these issues and visioning for the future, who would you identify for that opportunity? \*

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11. 10. What are the names and titles of the persons assisting in the process of ministry discernment in your diocese? \*

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12. 11. Are you aware of SIM as a financial resource for seminarian scholarships? \*

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13. 12. 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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14. 13. 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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