

**Discerning Our Common Call
Report to the 238th Diocesan Convention**

The Discerning Our Common Call Steering Committee was formed in 2017 to lead the diocese in discernment around our mission and budget which led into the Special Convention that year. Through discernment conversations, workshops, and practical exercises conducted over several years across the diocese, we have identified our core mission and call as:

Our purpose is to form people as disciples of Jesus Christ who participate in God's mission of reconciliation in the world.

We do so as an interconnected community of schools of discipleship.

Since then, we have continued to work as a strategic vision and mission team to assist the diocese in clarifying and focusing on our distinctive call to join in God's mission as the Episcopal Church in this region. Our work is to help the diocese as a whole identify areas in which transformative discipleship work is being done, or can be done, and help foster the connections and resources to strengthen that work.

In the course of 2021, the DOCC Steering Committee gradually focused on developing the disciple-forming potential of the work of racial reconciliation and justice being done by the Anti-Racism Commission, the Reparations Task Force, and within and among congregations. We are developing a pilot program to identify ambassadors who help their congregations understand how racial equity and anti-racism work must actively help us grow deeper in our discipleship, and how actively following Jesus leads us into anti-racism and racial equity work.

We are also preparing for the launch in Fall 2022 of a project to help both the diocese as a whole and individuals within the diocese map where we find ourselves on the path of discipleship (from being curious about Jesus to being centered in Jesus), and will provide tools for growth in discipleship that can be used by any member of the diocese. Please look for an opportunity to participate in this process later this year!

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Mellott

Members of the Discerning our Common Call Steering Committee

Annette Buchanan	St. Augustine's, Asbury Park
Caroline Carson	Holy Innocents, Beach Haven
Amy Cornell	Grace St. Paul's, Mercerville
Nina Dixon	St. John's-on-the-Mountain, Bernardsville
Deborah Kirk	St. Stephen's, Waretown
Philip Lewis	Trinity Cathedral, Trenton
Phyllis Long	Christ Church, Toms River
Jorge Martinez	St. John's, Elizabeth
Emily Mellott, Chair	Trinity, Moorestown
Juan Monge Santiago	All Saints, Lakewood
Karen Moore	Grace, Plainfield
Ron Pollock	St. John's, Somerville
Sue Shubeck	St. John's, Linden