Spiritual Conversation
Deanery Convocation August 8, 2026

The Goal: **Gather input for developing a future diocesan vision/mission statement**.

The process:

1. The Scripture is read, followed by quiet contemplation,
2. The Scripture is read again, followed by more quiet contemplation
3. The questions are introduced.
4. The first round of sharing takes place, one at a time, with no comments or interpretation, only listening.
5. Silent contemplation
6. The second round of sharing takes place, one at a time, where people reflect what they heard others say/what touched them about what others said.
7. Silent contemplation
8. A discussion takes place of what emerged, identifying common themes, differences, etc. about what a mission/vision statement might include
9. Note takers share with the larger group

Timing: 10 minutes or less for 1 through 7, 10 minutes for item 8 and 5 minutes for sharing with the larger group.

Discussion questions:

1. Where do you see the Spirit, the Wisdom of God, leading the Diocese?
2. How do we build up the Kingdom of God for the future?
3. How does the Diocese make Christ's presence visible?

Notes:

A reading from the Book of Proverbs (Ch 8):

Does not wisdom call,
and does not understanding raise her voice?
2 On the heights, beside the way,
at the crossroads she takes her stand;
3 beside the gates in front of the town,
at the entrance of the portals she cries out:
4 "To you, O people, I call,
and my cry is to all that live.
5 O simple ones, learn prudence;
acquire intelligence, you who lack it.
6 Hear, for I will speak noble things,
and from my lips will come what is right;
7 for my mouth will utter truth;
wickedness is an abomination to my lips.
8 All the words of my mouth are righteous;
there is nothing twisted or crooked in them.
9 They are all straight to one who understands
and right to those who find knowledge.
10 Take my instruction instead of silver,
and knowledge rather than choice gold;
11 for wisdom is better than jewels,
and all that you may desire cannot compare with her.
12 I, wisdom, live with prudence,[a]
and I attain knowledge and discretion.
14 I have good advice and sound wisdom;
I have insight, I have strength.