A set of dynamic resources for discerning a shared sense of God's purpose and direction for a congregation.

What does it do?

Provides practical supports, resources, and coaching to –

- **Stimulate and deepen Christian hope and faithful imagination** (opening ourselves afresh to what God wants to do among and through us)
- **Express a compelling shared vision for our future** (receiving God's gift of guidance and direction)
- **Strengthen both congregation and leadership team** (practices of prayer and faith-sharing, analysis and decision-making)

What is included?

Downloads of all resources to facilitate a time of congregational vision discernment:

PART ONE: GETTING READY FOR A SEASON OF VISIONING

- **The Spiritual practices of visioning**
  - Download: "A vision for visioning" for introducing and interacting around your expectations and desired outcomes from visioning.
- **Designing a time of Discernment**
  - Download: Process outline and adaptable timeline, introducing all of the practices, and deciding how Discerning God's Call will work in your church.

PART TWO: LEADING A SEASON OF VISIONING

- **Practice #1: Seeing the future with eyes of faith** – Formation resources for cultivating this spiritual practice among key leaders, groups, and congregation, to introduce, stimulate and frame. Helpful resources for sermon series.
  - Download: "Seeing the future with eyes of faith" resources with discussion questions.
- **Practice #2: Encountering Jesus' model of community** – a congregation formation process interacting with Jesus' vision for community in the Sermon on the Mount.
  - Download: *A People of Salt and Light 4-session* congregational study resource with facilitator's guide.
- **Practice #3: Discerning God's Vision Together** – A congregation wide vision event brings people together to ask and answer, "What is God calling us to be and do in this time and place?"
  - Download: Detail design and facilitation, including handouts, logistics, invitation.
- **Practice #4: Harvesting the fruit of our discernment** – The church's leadership team draws out distinctive elements of God's vision from the time of discernment.
  - Download: Design and detail facilitation for expressing congregation vision and calling, priority areas and goals.
- **Practice #5: Sharing the fruits of discernment** - Resources for sharing and interacting with the vision.
  - Download: Processes for engaging the congregation and existing groups for praying and interacting with the vision.

Coaching support included:

- Getting Ready for a Season of Visioning:
  - Initial consultation to design and integrate with local needs and timeframe
  - Coach delivers resources for visioning Practices.
  - Plan support for Leading.
- Leading a Time of Visioning:
  - Coaching as needed: brief calls and/or email exchanges to support orienting and equipping in advance of each Practice.

Additional coaching support: contact Center staff to clarify need and cost.

- Availability throughout to interpret, advise, adapt
- Consultations to evaluate and identify next steps.

Discerning God's Call is adaptable to your church's needs. While normally engaged in a 3-4 months – a 'season' – the time frame can be shorter, or it can be expanded to facilitate deeper and broader congregational discernment. Coaching support can help identify and address even the most strategic and systemic concerns and integrate with your congregation's discernment of God's vision.

Benefits you can expect:

- Discover vision for our church's future ministry.
- More inclusivity in decision-making and ministries.
- More committed community of Christ-followers, open to God's call and leading.
- Develop greater unity.
- Have a clear sense of our leadership needs.
- Experiencing the fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control.

Costs:

Cost Ranges for *Discerning God's Call* Resources and Coaching:

Churches up to 250 members -- $750
Churches between 250 – 500 -- $1,250
Churches over 500 -- $2,000

the Center for Parish Development

For more information or to ask a question:
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