

RESOLUTION TITLE: A Prayer for Discernment and Decision Making for the Diocese of Rhode Island

WHEREAS, The Diocese of Rhode Island and the congregations of the Diocese are in a liminal space, discerning what life in the context of the coronavirus pandemic and beyond it may look like, and,

WHEREAS, we are called to be people who continually discern God's presence and the movement of God's Holy Spirit in our lives, be it

RESOLVED, That the Diocese of Rhode Island adopt a Prayer for Discernment and Decision making to be used by congregations, Bishop's Committees and Vestries, Diocesan Council, and other bodies as may be appropriate, until the 231st Diocesan Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island. And be it further,

RESOLVED, That the following prayer be adopted as the Prayer for Discernment and Decision making to be used in worship, during meetings, and whenever beneficial: *Open our hearts and guide our minds O God, that we might be a reconciling, inviting, and transforming partner in creating your Beloved Community in the world.*

EXPLANATION: Following the January 2021 Diocesan webinar with the Rev. Susan Beaumont on *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going: Leading in a Liminal Season*, Diocesan Council engaged in discerning a set of Core Values. This work was intended to create guidelines by which Diocesan Council would use for further discernment and decision making for the Diocese of Rhode Island and resulted in a prayer. As the whole Diocese, including our ministries and congregations, are in a period of discernment, this resolution is proposed to unite us in an intentional period of prayer so that we might discern how God is calling us individually and collectively over the course of the next year.

Signed by The Rev'd Canon Dr. Dena Cleaver-Bartholomew

Signed by The Rev'd Scott R. Lee