

## SOME FIRST-HAND REFLECTIONS ON “LOVING THE QUESTIONS”



“I came with some vague ideas about ministry and left with some great friendships and clarity about what I am being called to.”

Steve Houghton

“A wonderful experience of sharing like thoughts and faith with other people trying to discern where God may be calling us on our spiritual journey.”

Elizabeth Poliese



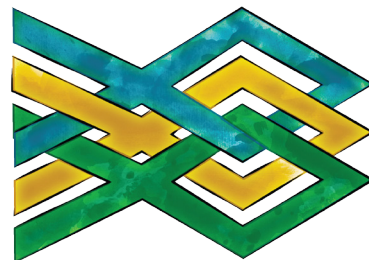
“Are you wondering what God has in mind for your life? Loving The Questions will help.”

Ed Farrell



### Diocesan Ministries Requiring Community Discernment:

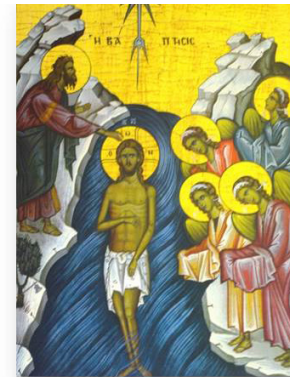
Some Licensed Lay Ministries  
Vocational Deacon  
Priest



CELEBRATING GOD'S ABUNDANCE

## “LOVING THE QUESTIONS”

A New Vision for the Ministry of  
All the Baptized



The Commission on Ministry of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts is excited to announce a new resource for all members of our diocese who want to explore God's call to ALL baptized persons, to grow deeper in discipleship by discovering how particular life experiences, individual gifts and passions connect with God's Mission! “Loving the Questions” hopes to offer opportunities for reflection and self-exploration, spiritual practice, and creative ways to think about areas of ministry, both in congregational life and in the world “outside the walls.”

**WHAT IS IT?** “Loving the Questions” consists of two related components for this exploration of God’s call: a monthly large-group “Community of Education and Formation” that will begin in September 2016 and end in April 2017 with an overnight retreat, and a monthly Saturday gathering at All Saints Church, South Hadley, and St. Francis’ Holden, during the months from October 2016 through February 2017; and small “Communities of Discernment” that will meet monthly during the same period (dates to be set by each of the small groups) at parishes in each of the corridors of the Diocese, for prayerful listening and support as participants seek to respond to the questions forming in their own hearts.



### WHEN AND WHERE IS IT?

The **Community of Education and Formation** will meet on Saturday-Sunday, September 24-25, 2016 at Adelynrood Conference and Retreat Center, Byfield, MA. The Saturday gatherings at All Saints, South Hadley and St. Francis’ Holden, will be held on October 15, November 19, January 7 and February 4 from 9 AM to 3 PM. “Loving the Questions” will conclude with a second retreat on Saturday-Sunday, April 7-8, 2017 at Our Lady of Calvary Retreat Center in Farmington, CT.

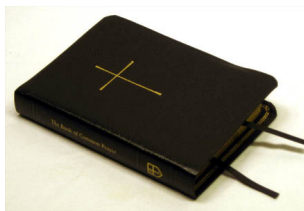


Small-group **Communities of Discernment** will meet at locations throughout the diocese. Participants will be notified of the locations in Early October, 2016.

### DO I HAVE TO DO BOTH PARTS?

Each component of Loving the Questions is “free-standing” – all interested may participate in either one of the components OR both.

Please note that any person who is exploring a possible call to ordained ministry in the Diocese of Western Massachusetts **must participate in BOTH** the Community of Education and formation and a Community of Discernment, **effective January 2016**.



### HOW DO I REGISTER?

Complete the Registration Form (available from your Rector or on the diocesan website) – please be sure to have your Rector/Priest-in Charge write a letter in support of your participation that can be mailed separately if necessary. There is a nominal registration fee of \$200 per participant, as this PILOT program is heavily subsidized by the Diocese. Send both the Registration Form and the \$200 fee to:

**The Diocese of Western Massachusetts**  
**ATTN: Ms. Robin Carlo**  
**37 Chestnut Street**  
**Springfield, MA 01103-1787**

**Registration DEADLINE:**  
**August 15, 2016**

### CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

You can speak with your rector, print forms and applications on the diocesan website or contact:



Ms. Robin Carlo  
Missioner for Spiritual Formation  
Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts

e-mail: [spiritualformationwma@gmail.com](mailto:spiritualformationwma@gmail.com).