

Faith Story – Explorers

Commission on Ministry

In 1200-1500 words, write the story of your faith. Please double space, use 1 inch margins and 12-point font. Please be sure to follow the instructions on this page. When completed, please send via email to Sherri Martin at smartin@diosohio.org. Your Faith Story needs to be submitted two weeks before the Explorers' Retreat in order to give the Commission on Ministry adequate time to read it.

Your name, address, phone, e-mail, sponsoring congregation should be in a header on each page. Please watch the Bishop's keynote address found on the Diocesan website at <https://vimeo.com/60671543> before beginning. Use the following questions as guides to share your story with us.

- Describe your family of origin and how belief in God was expressed in your family.
- Describe when you came to understand who Jesus is for you and how your faith in God has helped you wrestle with doubt, disappointment, failure, joy and sorrow. Please tell us the story of some of those times.
- How do you live out the Gospel in who you are and what you do?
- What is your understanding of the Christian faith in relationship to the church and the world?
- What excites and encourages you about your faith that you would like to share with others?
- How does your faith continue to develop? What practices do you engage for its continuing development and for critical reflection on your faith? What aspects of faith have been most challenging for you?
- Having watched Bishop Breidenthal's video, how do your current ministries reflect the traits of theologian, entrepreneur, and faith community organizer?
- Given all that you have written above, what brings you to the Explorers' retreat at this point in your life? How has your sense of vocation developed in the conversations you have had with your clergy person over the past year?

Appendix: (not part of the 1200-1500-word faith story)

- How does your household feel about your exploration of ordained ministry?
- In what ways do you think that your life and the life of your household will change if you are called to be ordained? Do they agree with your understanding of this change?
- How do you and how does your household feel about the possibility of moving or changing congregations?