

Questions for discussion and reflection

When we affirm our baptism, we ask God to help and guide us as we commit to the five faith practices listed below. Each of the following has the potential to be “a gift” of immeasurable value in our lives. Like many gifts, we first need to open the gift, prayerfully ponder it, and discern a place for that gift in daily life. Thanks be to God who sends the Holy Spirit to be our guide.

Use the following questions for small group discussions or for personal devotions to begin the conversation on the five gifts of discipleship. Take your time reflecting on each gift, so you might claim and rediscover these five gifts of discipleship.

To live among God’s faithful people.

- a) What does it mean for you to live among God’s faithful people?
- b) Name someone who influenced your faith journey. Describe that person’s faith.
- c) How might “living among God’s faithful people” be considered a gift? What are the consequences, if any, if we do not allow this gift to be part of our life?
- d) **Challenge:** List seven reasons to be part of a church family.

To hear the Word of God and share in the Lord’s Supper.

- a) What does it mean for you to hear the Word of God?
- b) Describe what it feels like to receive the Lord’s Supper.
- c) When did you first experience the Word of God and/or Lord’s Supper as a priceless gift from God? Explain.
- d) **Challenge:** Take a few minutes for silent prayer. Listen for a phrase, verse, or image from scripture. Share.

To proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed.

- a) What does it mean for you to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word AND deed?
- b) What prevents you from freely sharing the good news of God in Christ?
- c) How might the opportunity to proclaim the good news of God in Christ become a transformative gift to the proclaimer?
- d) **Challenge:** Turn to someone and share part of your faith story in less than five minutes.

To serve all people, following the example of Jesus.

- a) What does it mean for you to serve all people following the example of Jesus?
- b) Describe the example of Jesus as he served others. Describe what it feels like to serve others.
- c) How might the act of serving others (like Jesus) become a gift to both the server and the one who is being served?
- d) **Challenge:** Brainstorm potential partners in order to deepen and widen your service to others.

To strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

- a) What does it mean for you to strive for justice?
- b) What can we do as individuals to promote peace in all the earth?
- c) What advice would you give to someone exhausted from striving for justice and peace?
- d) **Challenge:** Select an injustice or area of strife which concerns you. Identify one thing you will commit to do to make a difference.

