

*Rev. Heather Apel, Assistant to the Bishop for Leadership, Indiana-Kentucky Synod, ELCA*

*What are your initial thoughts on this conversation? What surprised you? What was most memorable to you?*

- ▶ *How much do you know about the work of the Indiana Kentucky Synod? What questions do you have about the work of the synod?*
- ▶ *Heather talks about how events have changed how we interact and that the new ways of interacting with people are exhausting spiritually and emotionally. What are the blessings and benefits of connecting with God's people that outweigh the weariness that comes with finding new ways to interact?*
- ▶ *Heather says the past year has helped to push her professionally to think about how we still do God's ministry, how we are still God's hands in the world and God's mouth speaking grace and love and forgiveness but doing it in new ways. How do you see yourself as God's hands or God's mouth?*
- ▶ *Heather reminds us that God's kingdom is still breaking forth. How do you see God's kingdom breaking into the world right now? What are the signs of God's kingdom that you look for?*
- ▶ *Heather says, "As long as I can keep that glimmer of God at work still out there, it's what helps me to keep moving forward." What are those glimmers of God at work that you see in the world around you?*
- ▶ *Heather said, "If you try to go it alone, you're not going to get real far." When are times you have tried to go it alone on your walk of faith? What happened? Who are the people you turn to for support on your walk of faith? What happens when you stay connected with these people?*
- ▶ *Heather describes discernment as like being in a dark room with a flashlight. You can't see the whole room, but can see enough to take a step forward, and then you see the next thing. What's your light as you try to discern what God is calling you into?*
- ▶ *"Faithfulness comes in taking the next step." What is a next step you sense God wants you to take today?*
- ▶ *Discernment includes both an external and an internal call. How do you sense these in your life? What have you sensed you are called to? What have you sensed you are called from? Who helps you hear the "external call"? How do you know an "internal call" when you hear it?*
- ▶ *Discernment is an ongoing process. When and how do you know it's time to engage in this process again?*
- ▶ *The church is still the body of Christ in the world. What might your role in the body of Christ at Holy Shepherd be? In the body of the Christ that is the entire Church?*
- ▶ *Heather talks about changes in how we prepare leaders for serving in ministry. What are the lessons you think the next generation of pastors, deacons and lay leaders need to know? What are the lessons the next generation of leaders in your profession need to know?*
- ▶ *Heather invites us to keep our eyes and ears and hearts open for where God is calling our community. How do you open your eyes, ears and heart to God?*
- ▶ *Is God calling you to step into leadership in a ministry within the congregation, in a vocation outside the congregation, or in the wider church?*

