

Weekly Meditation, May 6, 2009
By Rev. Teri Lubbers

Discernment

Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing, there is a field. I'll meet you there. When the soul lies down in that grass, the world is too full to talk about. Ideas, language, even the phrase 'each other' doesn't make any sense. - Rumi

Two weeks ago, our Regional Elder Rev. Lillie Brock, spoke to our congregation about a process of discernment that we will undertake, one that I will help facilitate. This process is **bigger** than whether Spirit is calling David Wynn as our permanent pastor. So if you have already made your mind up about that then I invite you to come back to the drawing board. That decision will only become clear as we answer two questions: 1) who are we called to be as the church; 2) what is Spirit calling us to do. And so – like the Julie Andrews song from last Sunday's call to worship – let's start at the very beginning. What is discernment?

Discernment IS:

- Perceiving something hidden or obscure.
- A *process* and not a single step.
- Openness to the mystery of God.
- Actively seeking God's presence and will in my individual life.
- Seeking Spirit's direction regarding a significant action being contemplated.

Discernment IS NOT:

- Holding a forum where I voice my personal opinion.
- Justification or rationalization, or defending a position I already hold.
- My ego-conditioning and what it wants or needs.
- Attachment to a particular outcome.

Participating in this discernment process means:

- Willingness to be vulnerable to God and each other.
- Letting go of my cherished ideas of what is the right thing to do.
- Listening deeply to Spirit.
- Committing my time to prayer and spiritual practice over the next weeks.

More to come on Sunday. But in the meantime please read the following passages as a starting place for our discernment and reflection: **Psalm 139 and Romans 12**. Read them in various translations if possible (I especially like *The Message*) and only read a few paragraphs at a time. Make a note of any word or words that "shimmer" to you as you read.

Prayer: *Guiding Spirit, I don't know what you wish to accomplish in and through me. Open my heart to the mystery of your love and relieve me of the bondage of self and my conditioning that I may be a channel of your love and grace. Amen.*