

CLEARNESS COMMITTEE FOR PERSONAL DISCERNMENT

Mission

Provide a safe, loving, supportive and spirit directed atmosphere to explore, “becoming clear,” seeing a way forward, looking at options and deciding on a course of action around a specific concern. Some examples are spiritual direction, personal relationship, a calling or leading, personal crisis, work related issue, life changes, illness, parenting

Membership on Clearness Committee

Usually 3 or 4 individuals recommended by Care and Counsel Committee and/or another appropriate committee, such as:

- Care and Counsel Committee alone for certain personal issues
- Worship and Ministry Committee for spiritual direction/leadings
- Peace and Social Action Committee for social concern issues.

The members of the Clearness Committee need to be familiar with the clearness process and be approved by the person requesting the clearness committee.

A member of Care and Counsel will review the clearness process with the Clearness Committee members prior to the first meeting

Procedure:

- An individual (focus person) or group with a concern contacts the clerk of Care and Counsel to request a clearness committee.
- The Clerk refers the concern to a member of the committee who calls the focus person. After a brief discussion with the clerk or designated committee member, the focus person submits a written statement of his/her/their concern(s) to Care and Counsel member. The focus person may also suggest individuals he/she/they might recommend or not recommend for the clearness committee.
- Members of the Care and Counsel Committee discern if this concern is the purview of Care and Counsel, Worship and Ministry or perhaps Peace and Social Action. As indicated, Care and Counsel may work with the other committees to develop a clearness committee. A Care and Counsel generated list of several names (more than 4) is presented to the focus person for his/her selection of the Clearness Committee members.
- The Care and Counsel member recommends the proposed clearness committee to the focus person/group. If he/she/they agree(s) with the selected individuals the clerk of Care and Counsel contacts these individuals to determine their willingness and availability to serve on the committee. Once the committee is determined the convener is free to convene the meeting.
- A convener is chosen from the members of the committee and is responsible for the times and dates of the meetings. The Clearness Committee usually meets in the home of the focus person or another comfortable setting.
- In preparation for the first meeting, the focus person's statement is distributed to the committee members. If indicated the focus person may choose to write a more comprehensive statement with more history or other relevant information.
- The task of the group is to listen prayerfully and to raise questions to assist the focus person to center on the question. Questions need to be brief and probing for the focus person and not to satisfy the curiosity of the questioner.
- The clearness process may take several meetings with prayerful consideration during, between, and after meetings. However, the clearness process is goal

directed and is a finite process. If indicated a support committee may be recommended.

- The group will determine when it has achieved its goal and is ready to disband. If indicated, a Support Committee may be recommended to help the person after the clearness process has been completed.