



# GROWING IN RESTORATIVE PRACTICES:

One Year Into the  
Synod on Synodality

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Synod  
2021  
2024





# **KRISANNE VAILLANCOURT MURPHY**

**Executive Director**  
Catholic Mobilizing Network





# HOUSEKEEPING

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- Closed Captioning (CC) Available
- Message [TECH] for Assistance
- Chat with Intention
- Send Your Questions
- Graphic Scribing
- \*HolySpirit





# KEY QUESTIONS

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- What have we heard?
- What do we need to ponder and hold?
- How can we continue on the synodal path in a restorative way?







# FRUITS OF LISTENING TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD

- Listening as openness to welcome; no one excluded
- Impetus towards mission, with other Christian traditions
- A shared responsibility & recognition of the common dignity of all baptized
- Importance of formation, sustained by a synodal spirituality
- Importance of the liturgy, for nourishment and communion





# **ROBERTO D. NAVARRO**

**Senior Director of U.S. Church Engagement**  
Catholic Relief Services



# OPENING PRAYER

*Adapted from "Enlarge the Space of Your Tent,"  
Working Document for the Continental Stage of the Synod*

Thousands of years ago, the prophet Isaiah addressed these words to a people living the experience of exile:

**"Enlarge the space of your tent,  
Spread out your tent cloths unsparingly,  
Lengthen your ropes and make firm your pegs"**

Lord, you have gathered us in this time of Synod.

You have called us to imagine the Church as a tent,  
the tent of meeting which accompanied the people on  
their journey through the desert.



# OPENING PRAYER

*Adapted from "Enlarge the Space of Your Tent,"  
Working Document for the Continental Stage of the Synod*

You have called us to listen,  
To make room,  
To move,  
To hold the uncomfortable tensions,  
And to ground our pegs, wherever we are, in your  
presence and in the core of our faith.

On this Ash Wednesday, we come together and we pray:

Lord, let us trust you in this experience  
of emptying ourselves out of love,  
in order to be filled by Christ through the Holy Spirit.



# OPENING PRAYER

*Adapted from "Enlarge the Space of Your Tent,"  
Working Document for the Continental Stage of the Synod*

Let us be renewed as a Church, through a deeper relationship with you and with one another.

Help us enter this time of discernment as "holy ground," for this is a time of grace, and of transfiguration.

Come Holy Spirit:  
May you be the guide of our journey together!





# PRESENTERS



**Caitlin Morneau**

**Director of Restorative Justice**  
Catholic Mobilizing Network



**Fr. David McCallum, SJ**

**Executive Director**  
Discerning Leadership



**Dr. C. Vanessa White**

**Associate Professor of**  
**Spirituality and Ministry**  
Catholic Theological Union



**Julia McStravog**

**Co-Leader**  
U.S. Synod Team (USCCB)



# CAITLIN MORNEAU

**Director of Restorative Justice**  
Catholic Mobilizing Network



# FIVE LESSONS from RESTORATIVE PRACTICES for the SYNOD on SYNODALITY



- INCLUSION
- EQUITY
- HEALING

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT MOMENT FOR THE CHURCH

THIS IS A TIME FOR AWAKENING and for rediscovering DIGNITY

WE CAN CO-CREATE THIS!

in the SPIRIT

DEEP listening

WHO ARE THE PEOPLE WE NEED TO BE LISTENING TO?

THIS IS THE WAY THE CHURCH IS TO BE NOW

WE ARE EXPERIENCING A CHANGE OF EPOCHS

WE ALL LIVE WITH TRAUMA

"SUFFERING NOT TRANSFORMED IS TRANSMITTED" Richard Rohr

1 CREATING A Safe enough CONTAINER GROUNDING IN PRAYER

2 EQUALIZING POWER and VOICE

WHO AMONG US HAS NOT SINNED? ELEVATE ALL VOICES

3 ARRIVING at our BEST SELVES

HOW CAN WE MODEL VULNERABILITY?

4 build RELATIONSHIPS before ISSUES INTENTIONALITY CONNECTIONS

THIS IS COMPASSION THIS IS LOVE 5 LISTENING WELL and SHARING FROM THE HEART

How to GET INVOLVED?

be creative be Curious

LET'S BE PATIENT

HOW DO WE FOCUS ON THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN MARGINALIZED?

COMMUNITIES SEEK PARTNERSHIPS OPENNESS

WE DON'T HAVE TO GO FAR: PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN ALIENATED MAY BE CLOSER THAN WE THINK!

# HOLDING FOR THIS MOMENT

Trust how  
the spirit is  
moving

Abide in the  
discomfort

Journey  
inward

Keep being  
synodal





# FR. DAVID MCCALLUM, S.J.

**Executive Director**  
Discerning Leadership





DISCERNING  
LEADERSHIP

# Embracing the Synod Process From Polarization to Possibilities

Fr. David McCallum SJ, EdD





# HOW DID WE GET HERE?



DISCERNING  
LEADERSHIP





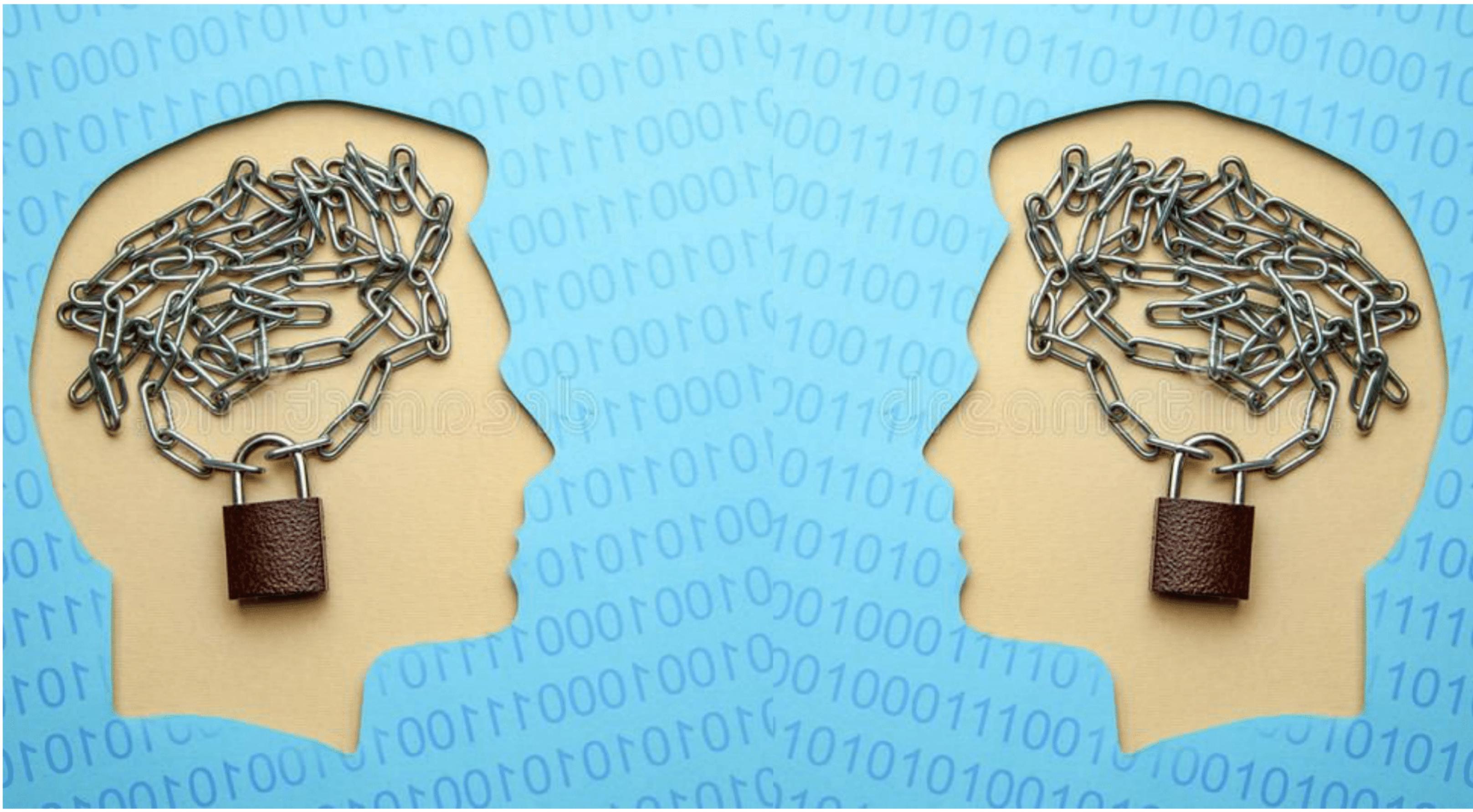
DISCERNING  
LEADERSHIP

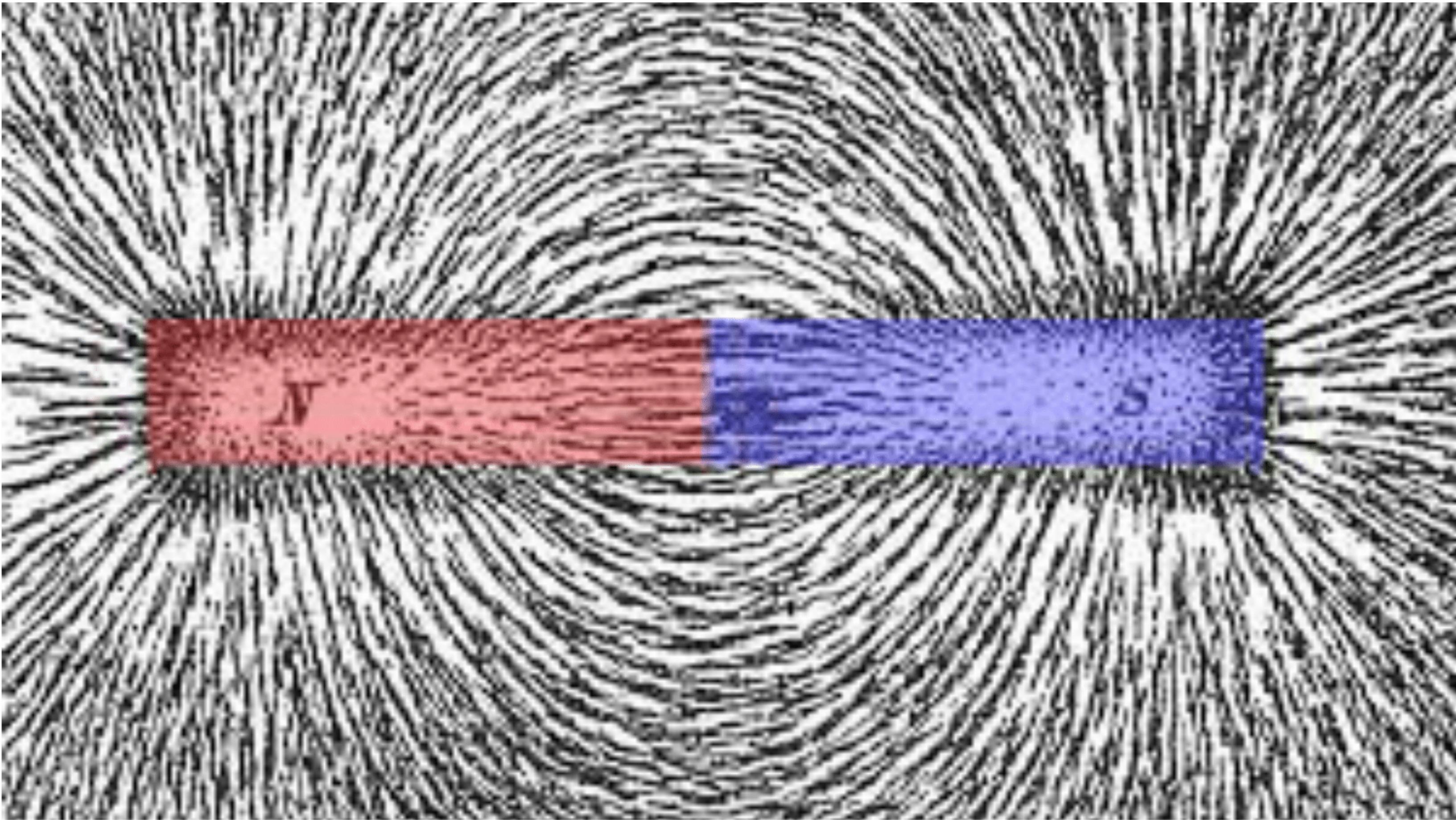




**ME!**

**WE?**





# SUFFERING POLARITY

## Preferencing

Giving preference to one pole over the other

## Attaching

Wedding oneself to a pole (at all costs)

## Othering

Creating “the Other” to personify the tension

## Either/Or-ing

Problem solving from an either-or mindset

**Results**

**Morale**

**Communication**

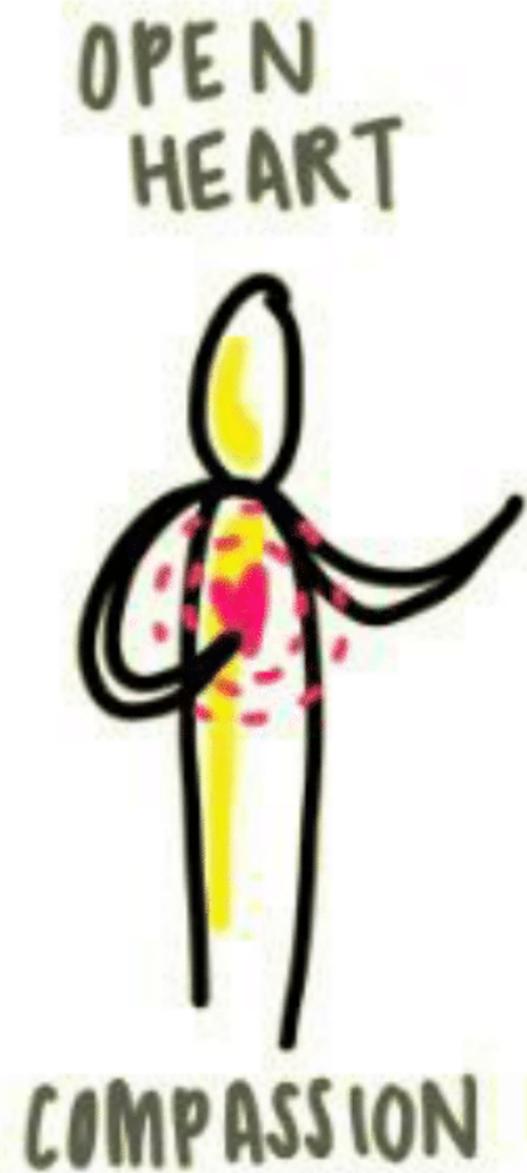
**Relationships**



DISCERNING  
LEADERSHIP

# ENLARGE THE PLACE OF YOUR TENT

*(Isaiah 54:2)*





HABIT

SUSPENDING

EGO

REDIRECTING

FEAR

LETTING GO

OPEN  
MIND

OPEN  
HEART

OPEN  
WILL

LETTING COME

CURIOSITY

EMBODYING

COMPASSION

ENACTING

COURAGE





# Listening: Lenten Practice of Metanoia

1. Give the benefit of the doubt;  
listen with curiosity
2. Fast from judgment; Listen  
with empathy
3. Pray not to change others;  
Listen to the ways the Holy  
Spirit invites change in  
yourself

For further reflection:

<https://www.u-school.org/presencing>

<https://andiron.com/navigating-polarities/>

<https://discerningleadership.org/>



# **DR. C. VANESSA WHITE**

**Associate Professor of Spirituality and Ministry**  
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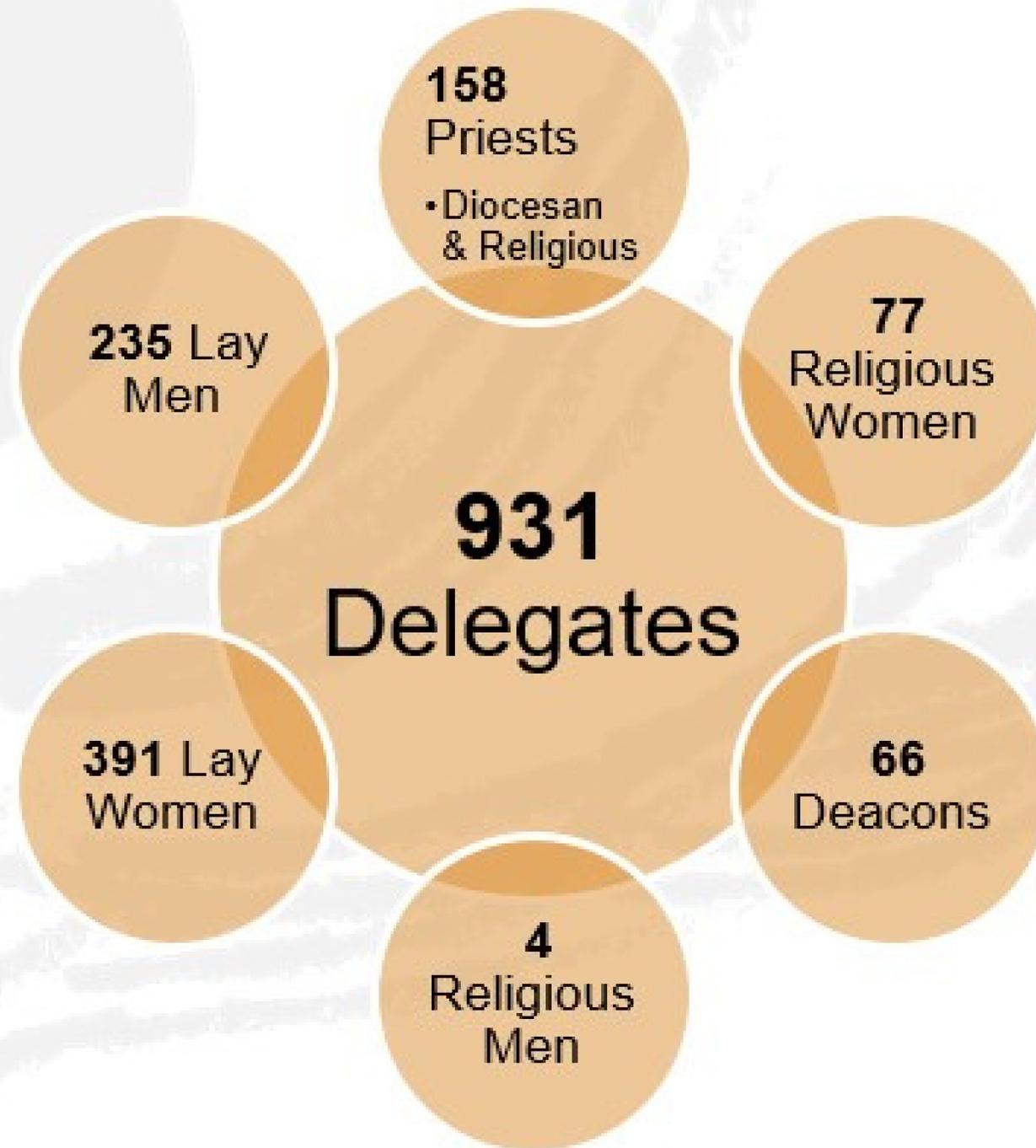


# **JULIA McSTRAVOG**

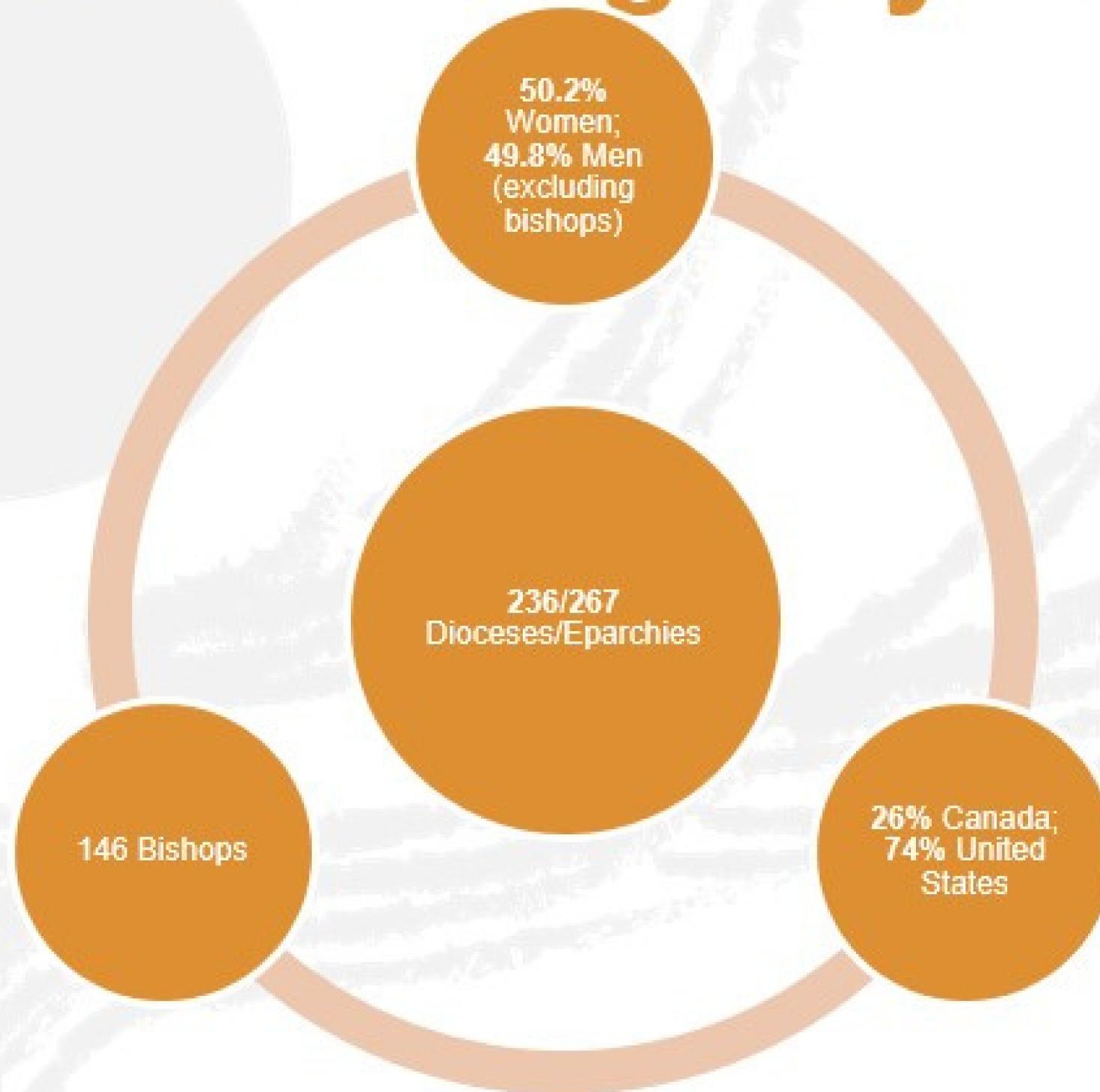
**Co-Leader**  
U.S. Synod Team (USCCB)



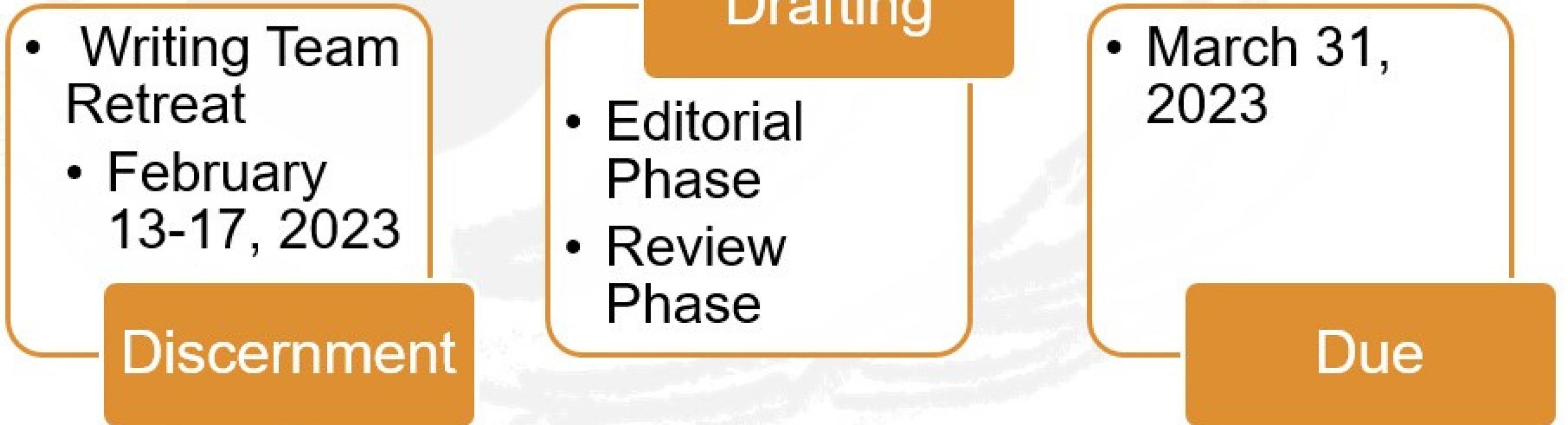
# Continental Stage by Numbers



# Continental Stage by Numbers



# Final Document



# US Listening Sessions

## Clergy

- Tuesday, February 7
- 18 Bishops
- 54 Religious Priests
- 149 Diocesan Priests

## "Region XVI"

- Wednesday, February 8
- 114 Representatives from "Region XVI"/organizations who submitted a synthesis and other important non-diocesan partners for synodality, including men and women religious

## Ecumenical

- Thursday, February 9
- 120 Members of USCCB Ecumenical Dialogues & Coalitions; local ecumenical dialogue partners and practitioners selected by Bishops

# What can you do?

## Personal

- How are you working to form yourself in synodality?

## Communal

- How can you bring a synodal spirit to the communities in which you are a member?

## Universal

- Pray for the Continental Teams & the Synod in October 2023



# **ELLIE HIDALGO**

**Co-Director**  
Discerning Deacons

# **SARA LARSON**

**Executive Director**  
Awake Milwaukee



# CLOSING PRAYER:

## A Litany for Holding

*Inspired by the "Litany for Those Not Ready for Healing," by Rev. Dr. Yolanda Pierce*

*As we enter the forty days of Lent, we pray:*

Let us not rush to solutions, without accepting to sit in the ashes, and embracing the messiness that is often life in community together.

*Let us not rush to the language of healing, without understanding the depth of the wound.*

Let us not rush to reconciliation, without speaking of how we can repair the breach and restore the loss.

*Let us not rush to renewal, without lamenting the absence of those who, in the Church, did not find safety, but harm.*



# CLOSING PRAYER

Instead, with the help of your Holy Spirit, let us pray:

*Let us empty ourselves from our drive to fix problems or push our agendas.*

Let us expand our imagination of what the Church is called to be.

*Let us disarm our hearts to listen to the voices we find difficult to hear.*

Let us decrease, so that our sisters and brothers on the peripheries of the Church may increase.

*Let us dare to speak up for what is true and righteous.*

Let us hold, with your grace, things that seem unwieldy.



# CLOSING PRAYER

*Let us acknowledge the reality that we are the Church, and embrace our common baptismal call and co-responsibility in mission.*

Let us trust that, with the Holy Spirit, we can discern in Synod a path of mercy, truth, justice, and peace.

*Let us deepen our attachment to you, Head and Life of your Church, meek and humble of heart.*

And as the Psalmist says: Lord, in your merciful love, "renew within [us] a steadfast spirit!"

*Lord, in your merciful love, "restore to [us] the joy of your salvation!" (Psalm 51)*

*Inspired by the "Litany for Those Not Ready for Healing," by Rev. Dr. Yolanda Pierce*





# THANK YOU!



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