



Dear Colleagues and Friends:

In January of 2006 our church will be holding another *It's Your Call* emphasis, the third such emphasis in the Eastern Synod and the second such emphasis in the rest of the church. *It's Your Call* is a recruitment programme aimed at encouraging members of our church to consider a vocation as an ordained or diaconal minister. In the process, *It's Your Call* encourages us all to consider or reconsider our vocations as we live out our baptismal call to ministry. For this emphasis to continue to bear fruit we need your help. *It's Your Call* is designed as a congregational program, and we are encouraging all congregations of the church to designate Sunday January 15, 2006 as *It's Your Call* Sunday. You will find with this letter materials that will help you carry out an *It's Your Call* Sunday emphasis.

Here is a step by step outline for conducting an *It's Your Call* emphasis.

Step One: Publicize *It's Your Call* Sunday in advance. Use the **Sample Bulletin Announcements and Newsletter Articles**.

Step Two: Prepare for *It's Your Call* Sunday using the **Worship and Sermon Suggestions** in your service preparations. Note that we are suggesting that all of our congregations across the country use the same **Hymn of the Day**. Have the youth or others in your congregation prepare the ***It's Your Call* Skit**.

Step Three: On Sunday January 15, 2006 join other congregations across the church in celebrating *It's Your Call* Sunday. Read the **letter from the Synod Bishops** to the congregation. Lift up the call to ministry in hymn and prayer and sermon. Distribute the bulletin inserts **Candidate's Profile** and **Nomination Form**. Collect the completed nomination forms in the offering.

Step Four: Interview nominees and complete the **Interview Form**. If candidates from other congregations have been nominated, send their nomination form to their home pastor.

Step Five: With permission of those nominated, send completed **Interview Forms** to your synod office. Individuals who are nominated will be contacted and followed up.

Step Six: Support and encourage candidates for ministry within your congregation. Refer to the brochure **Tips for the Growth and Nurture of Candidates for Ministry** for ideas on how to do this.

Thank you in advance for participating in this very important emphasis. Let us continue to pray and work together to identify, recruit and nurture candidates for ordained and lay diaconal ministry.

Yours in Christ,
The Rev. Susan C. Johnson – member of the *It's Your Call* Steering Committee