

**Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Houston, Texas**  
**Sample Discernment Letter: Vestry**

October 1, 2012

Dear ,

Leadership is so vital. Our Senior Warden, Tim Alford, our Vestry and I have been talking about leaders of faith who may have a call to serve on Vestry beginning in 2013. We want you to consider this.

Emmanuel believes in discernment. That means that we listen with our outer ears and with the ears of our hearts to how God is guiding us and then move in that direction with obedience. Tim and I are offering two sessions of Vestry Discernment, and we invite you to attend. We will talk about the role of Vestry members at Emmanuel, the expectations and the “job description” that indicates the time commitment. I’ve been doing this with the Senior Warden each year since I began as Rector in 2003, and we find that those who participate discern any of these answers: 1) yes, this is a ministry God is calling me to now; 2) yes, this may be a ministry God is calling me to, but later, not this year; 3) no, this is not the ministry in which God is calling me to serve.

The Vestry Discernment sessions are Tuesday, October 9 at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, October 13 at 11:30 a.m. Either Tim or I will call you in the next few days to answer any questions you may have and hear if you choose to attend one of these. In the meantime, I count on you to pray about this possibility. God hears our prayers and the Spirit will respond to you.

I love having you as part of our Christ-centered community. With thanks for all you do as we live our mission “to know and share the love of Jesus Christ.”

The Rev. Janie Kirt Morris