

Area Meeting Responses to Bible Study Questions, June 2006
Session One, *The People Called by God*

1. What does seeing “the church as a called people” mean?

- Area 1: The direction of the church is determined by the call of God. We are a priesthood of believers, inclusive of all families, not just our own tribe. As called people we are to learn together, and discern together in community as part of a parade of witnesses; to be an fact of faith, the liturgy or work of worship in the world. A called people is the church alive.
- Area 2: Seeing the church as a “called people” means realizing that everything starts with God, that we are unified, but that it is God’s doing: we must care for the community, be a blessing to others, and we are called to action through discernment.
- Area 3: We are a people compelled by God, driven by the Holy Spirit to faithfulness toward a blessing and/or promise secured by God.
- Area 4:
God gives us mission.
God gives us purpose.
To serve Christ.
God called Abraham, who responded with obedience.

2. In what ways is God’s call and Abram’s response instructive for the church today?

- Area 1: We are to trust God, obey God and take risks with our own comfort and leave behind the false securities and false idols of our past and enter into relationship with God. The world will attempt to deflect or defeat our relationship with God but we must remain steadfast.
- Area 2: We must have willingness to respond in faith, regardless of circumstances. We must become strong, so that we are ready when called. We must have patience, because things happen in God’s time. We must not question God’s call or use excuses about having no time or energy. We must do this while respecting disagreement.
- Area 3: Through the study of God’s word, we seek to discover what God is doing in the world and calls us to do within His plan.
- Area 4:
God calls us to leave.
Christ is accepted by faith as Abraham accepted by faith.
God calls. Our task is to respond to our discerned call.

We don't put much confidence in God.