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**Towards
New Horizons**

Discerning ways forward
for our Communities

Follow up Meeting

**Suggested outline – adapt to suit your circumstances!**

* **Arrivals and welcome**
* **Opening Prayer** (these or similar prayers)

Reader We light a light

**All The Light of faith – or hope – of love –**

**the Light of Christ come into the world**

**a light the darkness cannot overcome.** *(candle is lit)*

Reader We place in our midst the Word of God –

**All The inspiration and guide to countless generations –**

 **leading them from where they had been**

 **to the new places God had prepared for them.**

 *(Bible placed on stand/ table)*

Reader We gather as disciples of Jesus Christ

**All Who did not offer a path of ease and comfort,**

**but goes before us always –**

**pointing the way beyond confusion and loss**

**to a place of resurrection and new life.** *(cross placed on table)*

Remind people of their Day of Reflection and, if you kept the envelopes, invite them to retrieve theirs and read what they wrote on the card and to go back in spirit to that day and what they received from it. Allow a few moments for a brief sharing of what was written/ drawn and ask people to remember and bring this into their reflections later in the meeting.

* **Scripture**

As before, look first at the Readings of the Day or Sunday or try Jeremiah 29: 11-14.

Use the process of praying Scripture used in previous sessions.

* **Reviewing the process so far…**

Spend a short time reviewing what has happened and the “journey” that the group has taken.

Reflect particularly on the things that have emerged that seem to be shared by members of the group.

* **How does this feed into the change(s) facing us?**

Lay out any particular issues – or challenges that need to be addressed.

Recalling the scripture readings from earlier meetings – the time of reflection – and, if used, the Jeremiah reading, ask the group to reflect on them and the options they bring with them.

* Where we feel the energy of the Holy Spirit leading us?
* What seems to bring me and the group a feeling of harmony – deep sureness – consensus? (*Note – this is not the same as everyone agreeing with each other – it is deeper than this and can sometimes be something people can live with rather than totally agreeing with*)
* Where are the irritations – uncertainties – negativities? And how might we alleviate those?

Invite people to jot down their thoughts ready to share them. Then, open the reflection/ discussion up to the whole group. As before, the emphasis is on listening to what others say and noting what impresses/ challenges/ moves them.

When everyone has spoken, invite a more general discussion…

* What are the practical implications of what we have heard?
* How do we take these reflections and act upon them?
* Where are we likely to encounter negativity – and how can we allay fears/anger/ other painful emotions?

This section will probably take up most of the meeting. If things get heated – or bogged down – or confused, suggest a pause and go back to the Scripture or something that has particularly struck the group as definitely from God.

It is unlikely that firm decisions will be reached but hopefully, this process will offer a way forward founded on prayer that will be positive and hope-filled.

* **Closing Prayer**

God of power and tenderness –

you have led your people through deserts and tempests –

through shipwreck and parted waters.

Always watchful – always guiding –

you call your children to maturity and trust.

We thank you for all you have given us

and seek now to put all that we have received into practice –

trusting that your hand is upon us,

and that you will continue to bless us and those whom we serve.

May we be faithful stewards of all that you have entrusted to us

and come one day to share the inheritance of the saints

and all those to whom you have been able to say,

“Well done, good and faithful servants.”

We ask this in Jesus’ name.

**Amen**

Glory be to the Father -

**in whom we live and move**

**and have our being.**

Glory be to the Son -

**Whose name we bear**

**and who calls each of us**

**to be his disciples;**

**to build his Kingdom**

**and to go out into the world**

**and bear its fruit.**

Glory be to the Holy Spirit -

**pouring out grace and guidance,**

**forming us and renewing us.**

Inspire us all

In the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

**to live the Gospel,**

**to be open to change**

**and to move forward together in hope**

And may God bless us and keep us

and, until we meet again,

may God hold us in the palm of his hand.

**Amen**