**Believe Out Loud Discernment**

**[Church Name]**

Session 1

Date

**Welcome and Opening Prayer**

Rector’s welcome to this sacred conversation. Today we begin our discernment process regarding how our Christian community can welcome those of all sexual orientations and gender identities.

**Why enter this discernment now?**

We engage this time of prayerful discernment at [church name] as we seek:

* To recognize God’s work in the changing world around us
* To witness the movement and call to us in the wider Episcopal Church
* To respond to the pastoral needs of our congregation
* To widen our welcome of all in our community to [church name]

**Introduction of Believe Out Loud Team**

**Opening a Sacred Conversation**

How is this conversation different from other types of conversation? This is not a lecture series or a debate, but a prayerful invitation to everyone at [church name] to join in a prayerful time of discernment and sharing as we seek to hear how God is calling us to welcome our family, friends, and neighbors who identify as gay, lesbian, or other gender/sexual orientations.

**Learning and Reflection 1: Recalling Our History**

This exercise will help us remember and reflect on our own experiences and histories in our lives and the church around same sex relationships over the last five decades.

**Learning and Reflection 2: History of the Episcopal Church and General Convention**

**Next Sessions**

Date

Topic

Date

Topic

**Thank you to everyone present for joining in this sacred time of discernment
at [church name].**