

**Diocese of Victoria Diocesan Permanent Pastoral Synod  
Local Listening Facilitator FAQ**

**1. What qualities should a parish look for when selecting a Local Listening Facilitator?**

Facilitators should:

- A. Have excellent communication and strong people skills
- B. Be emotionally mature with the ability to manage uncomfortable situations
- C. Be compassionate, humble, and capable of understanding diverse views
- D. Be able to gently, but firmly, interrupt speakers who begin to dominate the conversation and redirect individuals who lead the discussion off-topic
- E. Be capable of accurately restating complex or convoluted statements in a manner that helps distill and clarify remarks for the larger group
- F. Be sensitive to the experiences of historically marginalized or oppressed communities, including Indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities, immigrants, refugees, LGBTQ+ persons, women, disabled individuals, and abuse survivors, with an understanding that some participants may require a level of pastoral care that cannot be provided in a Listening Circle or large group forum.
- G. Be connected to networks outside of their parish community
- H. Be able to empower and engage others (co-leaders) in the facilitation process

**2. What will the role and expectations be for the Local Listening Facilitator?**

- A. With the pastor/pastoral administrator, drive the Synod process in their parish
- B. Depending on size of community, organize co-leaders to support the process
- C. Attend (in person or virtually) 2-3 Diocesan meetings per year for training and to prayerfully discern Synod questions
- D. Gather people to engage in listening circles
- E. Report back with what is heard

**3. What will the time commitment be for the Local Listening Facilitator? How many meetings a year and where?**

Proposed 2024/2025 timeline:

- *Winter/Spring 2024*: One training session, online or in person (a variety of possible times will be offered)
- *Fall 2024*: Plenary meeting online or in person to determine the framework of questions which will be brought back to their communities
- *Between Advent 2024 and Pentecost 2025*: Facilitators host listening circles in their own communities (possibly recruiting others to help facilitate or scribe)
- *Close to Pentecost 2025*: Plenary meeting online or in person to report back what is heard