

# COMMITTEE REFLECTION

## FEBRUARY

### Opening Prayer:

Holy God, bless us in our time together  
so that we will be doing your will in everything we do.  
Help us to put aside our pride and ego  
that seeks only what we want,  
so that we can be filled with your Spirit that leads us to want what you want.  
Hear us in silence as we center ourselves in you and ask you to guide us this evening...

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### Henri Nouwen, *The Life of the Beloved*

The unfathomable mystery of God is that God is a lover who wants to be loved. The one who created us is waiting for our response to the love that gave us our being. God not only says, "You are my Beloved." God also asks, "Do you love me?" and offers us countless chances to say "Yes." That is the spiritual life: the chance to say "Yes" to our inner truth. The spiritual life, thus understood, radically changes everything. Being born and growing up, leaving home and finding a career, being praised and being rejected, walking and resting, praying and playing, becoming ill and being healed—yes, living and dying—they all become expressions of that divine question, "Do you love me?" And at every point of the journey there is the choice to say "Yes" and the choice to say, "No."

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### Reflection Questions:

- *What is the essential message you hear in this passage, and how does it apply to your life?*
- *What does it teach us about what we are to do as a church, and as leaders of a church?*