



Discernment

MT HAWTHORN COMMUNITY CHURCH

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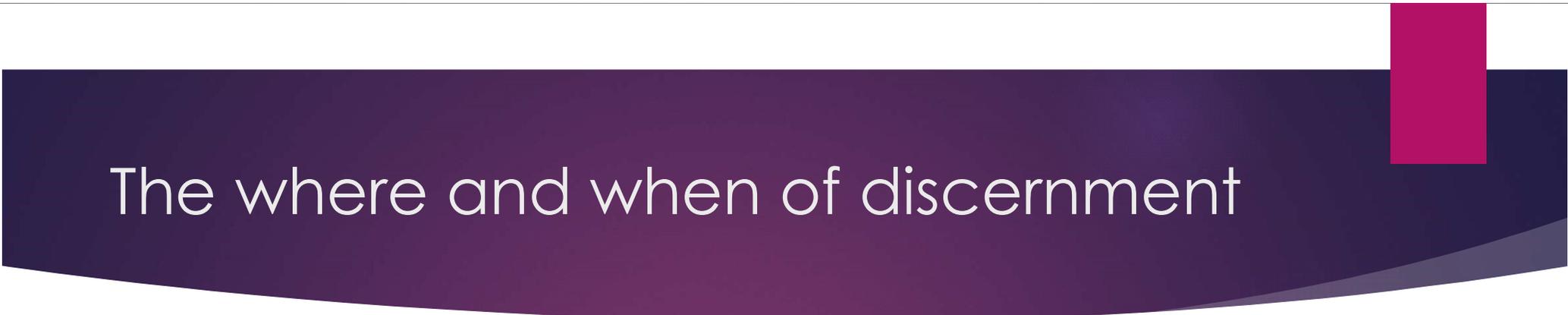
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Approaches to discernment

- ▶ Organisational discernment
- ▶ Individual discernment

Discernment – What is it?

- ▶ To attend to and engage with that profound Mystery we sometimes call God.



The where and when of discernment

- ▶ An ordinary, day-to-day process
- ▶ Critical times of transition

Discernment



The process of discernment

- ▶ Is embedded within the concreteness of our daily lives - the “whatness” of our lives.
- ▶ Concrete human experience is the context within which we encounter the *Mystery* we sometimes call God.

The process of discernment

- ▶ “If we come to know our selves, we shall know God; and knowing God, we shall be made like God“. Clement of Alexandria (150-215 CE)
- ▶ This concrete human experience occurs within the four arenas of the ‘Lifeframe’.

The Life Frame

Interpersonal

The realm of friendship.
Primary Focus:
Friendship (outside of roles).
Dating and romance.
Casual small group involvements.
Companionship.
Informal presentation of self.

Structural

The realm of organizations
and communities.
Primary Focus:
Institutions and organizations.
Family
Formal roles and responsibilities.
Professional & vocational
involvements.
Formal presentation of self.
Systems.

Individual

The realm of the 'inner life.'
Primary Focus:
Night dreams and self-dialogue.
Personal history and 'inner tapes.'
Family of origin scripting.
Relationship to my body.
Tacit sexuality and orientation.

Environmental

The realm of large scale
and long-term systems.
Primary Focus:
Nature and the global
environment.
Natural history and Evolution
(i.e. Human as A species among
other species).
Human history and culture.



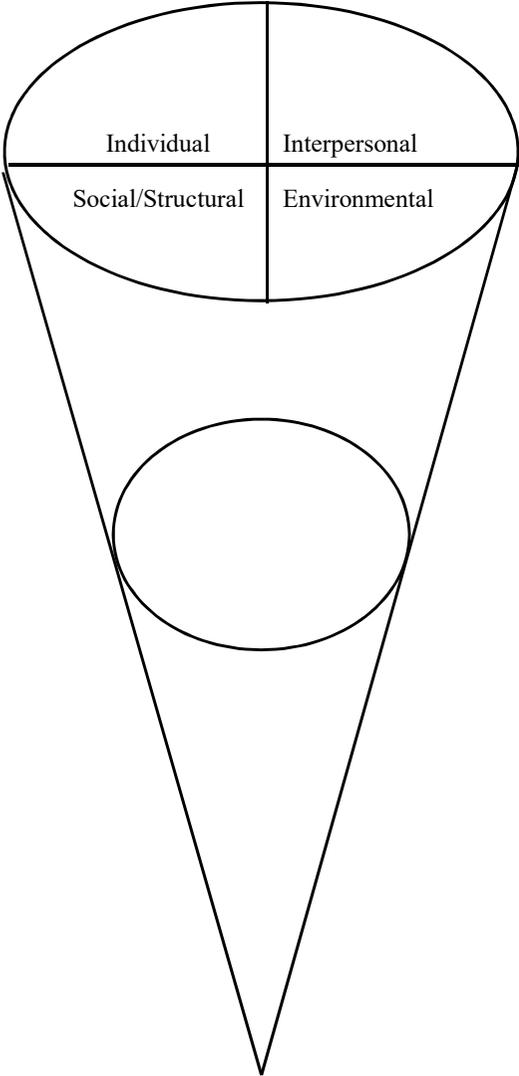
The process of discernment

- ▶ **Simultaneity:** once grace occurs in one arena, it generally flows through to the others.

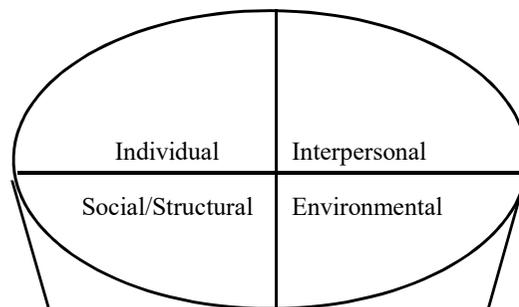
The process of discernment

- ▶ While human experience can be entered into through these four doorways, the processing of this experience occurs at different and deeper levels.

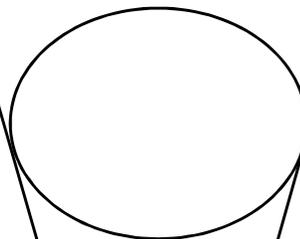
Objective, conceptual,
interpretative level

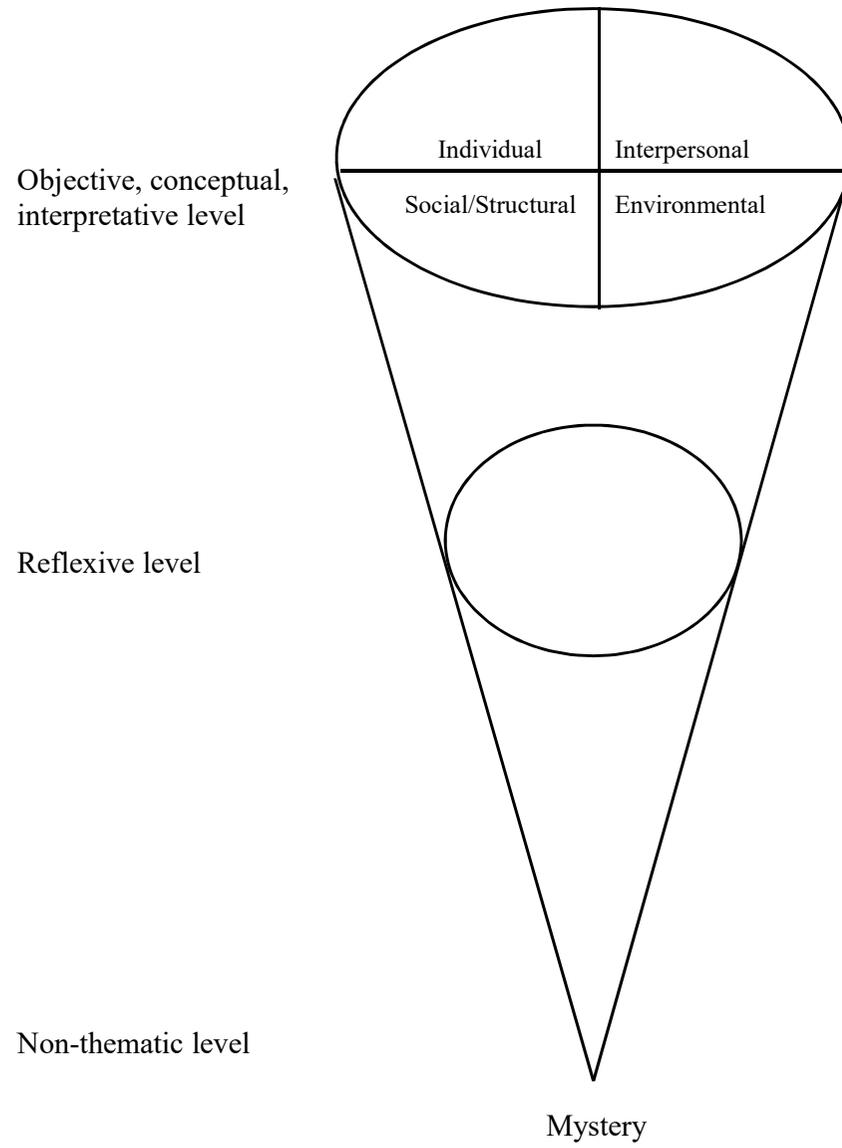


Objective, conceptual,
interpretative level



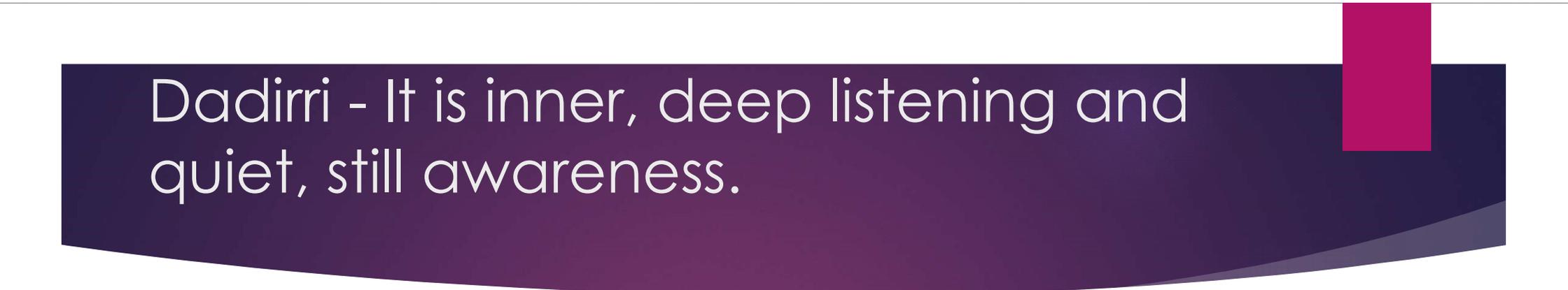
Reflexive level





Discernment – double noticing

- ▶ First level: to pay attention to the sensory content of what we see, smell, hear, taste and touch.
- ▶ Second level: to engage with the particular reflexive experience that emerges from within us. Then staying with this experience, we encounter and are transformed by that profound mystery we sometimes call God.



Dadirri - It is inner, deep listening and quiet, still awareness.

To know me is to breathe with me

To breathe with me is to listen deeply

To listen deeply is to connect

It's the sound

The sound of deep calling to deep

Dadirri, the deep inner spring inside us

We call on it and it calls on us.

--Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr, Aboriginal elder from Nauiyu (Daly River)