

Dear People of St. John's:

Your Search Committee has begun the work of seeking a new rector. Each of us feels the weight of the great responsibility before us and acknowledges also that we are called to represent the whole of our church. We enter into this search reverently and prayerfully. Know that we will continue in this process with your help and with Jesus Christ very much in our midst.

A Search Committee for a church operates unlike any other search or nominating committee because of the very real expectations for guidance from the Holy Spirit. While we aim to identify candidates for our rector's position, we are also seeking to discern those who feel called by God to be with us. That is the good news for all of us! We are not alone in this venture. God is with us.

Our Search Committee will receive names in three ways:

- After submitting our parish profile to the Church Deployment Office (CDO), the database will match active files (those priests open to a call) with the characteristics that we have collectively identified as most important to our congregation.
- Priests may learn of our vacant rector's position and submit their names to us or to the Diocese for consideration.
- Priests' names are submitted to the Search Committee by people who know them or know of them and suggest a potential match.

We have met with our diocesan consultant, Lynn Stuart, to review the search process. We anticipate three phases:

Phase I: Preparation (anticipated completion: November 2009)

We will seek input from the congregation on who we are and what we seek in our next rector, and we will revise the parish profile.

Phase II: Search (anticipated completion: February 2010)

We will activate the CDO database search, gather recommendations and self submissions, and actively seek names of qualified clergy. All names will be submitted to our Bishop for his approval before candidates may continue in the process.

Phase III: Discernment (anticipated completion: Late spring/early summer 2010)

The Search Committee will review candidates by studying profiles and curricula vitae, visit when possible, and talk with potential candidates. The Search Committee is charged with presenting two candidates to the Vestry, which will meet with both and issue a call to our next rector.

How Can You Help?

- Pray
- Submit names (contact any member of the Search Committee or send an e-mail to StJohnsSearchCommittee@gmail.com)
- Attend a **Congregational Conversation**

The Committee seeks the input of the congregation at three **Congregational Conversations**, which will be held on Sunday, September 13 at 9:30 a.m. during Adult Forum; Monday, September 21 at 7:30 p.m. in Magill Hall; and Thursday, October 1 at 1:00 p.m. at Westminster-Canterbury (Fauber 2). Please plan to attend one of these meetings. Together, we will explore the following:

- What are the essential values of St. John's Episcopal Church?
- What is it about St. John's that you value most?
- If you had three wishes for St. John's, what would they be?
- What is your number one consideration regarding a new rector?

We hope that you can attend one of the Congregational Conversations. If you are unable to do so, please send your responses to the Committee by mail or e-mail.

The Search Committee will provide the congregation with updates on our progress but must refrain from listing names or other details in order to protect the confidentiality of all potential candidates. Watch for regular updates in the Sunday *Tidings*, the monthly *Tidings*, and on the website (www.stjohnslynchburg.org).

Sincerely,

Your Search Committee