

RECTOR SEARCH

HOLY TRINITY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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SEARCH COMMITTEE

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Jay Kenerly

Amy Klass

Ninevah Murray

Mike Richey

Ben Thomas

Dear Parishioners,

As our Senior Warden, Bill Drake, has reported, Holy Trinity's Rector Search Committee has been formed and has started its work. We are a diverse group of parishioners who represent different genders, ages, ministries, engagement, and length of parish membership from lifelong to relative newcomer. Our hope is that every parishioner who has questions, ideas, or concerns about our rector search will feel comfortable connecting with at least one of us on the committee. Let us hear from you!

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Our first official meeting was with the Canon to the Ordinary, Catherine Massey, from the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina's Office of Transition Ministry. In the past, churches in our diocese have used executive search firms to assist in their new rector searches. Now, as part of the support the Diocese of North Carolina provides its churches, the Office of Transition Ministry fulfills that function, and Catherine Massey will serve as our search consultant on behalf of the Bishop. One of the most important messages we were left with after our meeting with Catherine was how different this process is from a corporate search. This is a spiritual process, not a hiring process. We are not hiring an employee but calling a priest and spiritual leader to join us at Holy Trinity.

Catherine described two phases of this process: the planning phase and the search phase. The planning phase involves the entire parish, and everything the Search Committee does during this phase is totally transparent. We started the planning phase by listening to the History of Holy Trinity sessions, led by Pat Grace, to draw some inferences about our parish and how God has called it to serve and live in these years of our history. Next, we will listen to our fellow parishioners at parish-wide meetings on Sunday morning, February 2, and Wednesday night, February 5. Catherine Massey will lead our discussions about who we are, what we value, and what we hope for in the future. This is the time to talk about what we at Holy Trinity are seeking in a new rector, so it is very important that as many parishioners as possible attend one of the meetings. Please put whichever date is more convenient for you on your 2020 calendars! There will be childcare for each gathering and more information to come.

With the information and insight we gather from these sessions, the Search Committee will develop a profile of the parish which informs potential candidates about Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. This profile, along with specific parish data, is posted online on the websites of our parish, the Diocese, and the national Office of Transition Ministry. Also, Diocesan staff are active in disseminating information about the parish at regional meetings of transition ministers.

Our profile will be online for a couple of months during which time the Search Committee will be planning for the next phase — the search phase. Once the search phase begins and we start reviewing applications, the work of the Search Committee goes from being totally transparent to totally confidential.

In the coming weeks, I will try to give more detail on the roles of the Bishop, our Vestry, the Interim Rector, and the Canon to the Ordinary. Also, as questions are asked of the Search Committee by fellow parishioners, I will share those. Our goal as a Search Committee is to communicate as much as possible about the process of our search and to listen closely to what our parish is looking for in our next rector. We feel the tremendous responsibility of our new rector search, but we enthusiastically embrace the challenges ahead.

Martha Stukes
Search Committee Chair