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April 8, 2020

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

The Search Committee has continued to meet by video conference to discuss what actions we should take in conducting our rector search during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have also met twice with Canon Catherine Massey who has spent the past couple of weeks talking with Bishop Rodman, other parishes in the diocese, and her fellow transition ministers throughout the country.

If there is any good news in this it is that on March 2, we completed the first phase of the process by posting our rector position on the diocesan website and our Holy Trinity Profile on our Holy Trinity website. The Search Committee is currently in a down time while rector candidates who are discerning a change in their ministries are submitting applications for our position to the Diocesan Office of Transition. That was the plan before COVID-19.

Now, as we deal with the realities of the pandemic, the Search Committee feels strongly that the rector we seek is not in a position to be discerning a change. As we wrote in the Holy Trinity Profile, reflecting what we heard from all of you, "We pray for a rector who will know and be with us, love us, build us, feed us, and walk with us." We recognize that our next rector is doing just that with his or her current parish during this time dealing with a pandemic.

After lengthy discussion, the Search Committee is extending the deadline for applications for our position to May 30, 2020. This action was recommended by Canon Massey and affirmed by our Vestry. Hopefully, extending the deadline an additional 30 days will give potential rector candidates some time to focus beyond COVID-19. The Search Committee is committed to our task and will still work toward naming our new rector by the end of the summer, if at all possible.

And, as an aside, for all those who miss connecting with Holy Trinity, go to holytrinityrectorsearch.com, click on "Who We Are" at the top of the page and then click on "Watch us live our mission" on the right hand side for a two-minute video.

Many thanks for all your support,

Martha Stukes Search Committee Chair