



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER

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The Reverend John E. Shields, Interim Rector

The Reverend Dr. W. Carter Lofton, Pastoral Assistant

April 30, 2009

The search to find a new rector for Holy Comforter is officially underway. As chairs of the Search Committee, we want to thank all members who expressed interest in serving on this committee. We also want to inform you about the search process and what you can expect over the coming months. The following individuals have accepted the Vestry's call to serve with us on this committee.

Vicki Bott
Tim Cavins
Jane Coghill

Chuck Couch
Tammy Langley
Emily Livingstone

Chris Ravenberg
Karen Rogich
Leslie Wickham

We are off to a great start! The committee was commissioned on Sunday, April 26th and has already held several organizational meetings. Our team is filled with a great sense of responsibility in discerning God's will, and we earnestly ask for your prayers throughout this process. As Canon Michael Hunn said when he visited last month, this is not just a search to hire a priest, but a discernment of who God wants to join us in carrying out His work.

It is our hope that every member of Holy Comforter will be part of this important work. With your help, and with support from the diocesan office, our committee will use the following process.

1. **Develop a parish profile.** This is a document that outlines who we are as a community of Jesus' disciples and what essential skills and qualities are needed in our next rector.
2. **Publish our profile.** This is, in essence, our "job posting" and it will be posted on the websites of the national church, the diocese and Holy Comforter.
3. **Receive and review candidate applications.** The Committee will keep the identity of all candidates in strict confidence throughout the entire process. Revealing identities of applicants ultimately not called could strain relationships with their current congregation.
4. **Conduct interviews with selected candidates.** Members of the Committee will visit candidates' parishes to experience their ministry in action.
5. **Bring final candidates to the Vestry.** The Vestry will review the Committee's recommendations and elect the top candidate to become our new rector.

Please see the "Frequently Asked Questions" document on the website for additional information. Throughout this journey, we will communicate our progress to the parish. But, we also want to hear from you! Each one of us has an opinion of what gifts and talents our next rector should possess and, in the coming months, the Search Committee will provide different forums for you to express your thoughts.

We welcome all inquiries and feedback. Please feel free to contact any member of the Search Committee.

Yours in Christ,

Jim Muse
Chair, Search Committee

Peggy Jackson
Co-Chair, Search Committee