

The Rev. Robert L. Tate, Search/Discernment Consultant

Christ Church, Media
Look Inward/Look Forward
Parish Search/Discernment Workshop
September 10, 2017

10:00 am

Gather

Opening Prayer/Grace

Introduction of Facilitator, Vestry and Discernment Committee

Proposed Timetable:

- Publication of parish profile and listing of position with The Episcopal Church Office of Transition Ministry by November 2017
- Receive résumés, Skype interviews, reference checks of 6-10 candidates, November 2017 - January 2018
- Visits to 3-5 candidates. February - March 2018
- On site interviews with 1-3 finalists, April - May, 2018
- Call of next Rector, by June 2018
- Arrival of new Rector ASAP thereafter.

Purpose of today's workshop

- To share and gather the thinking and hopes of the congregation about Christ Church: where we want to go and the qualities most needed in our next Rector to take us there.
- To provide input and insights that will be used in creating the Parish Profile and registering the Rector position with the Diocese and the national Episcopal Church.

Today's agenda:

- Who are we as a parish? What are our strengths and weaknesses?
- Where are we headed as a parish? What are the challenges facing the parish?
- What qualities are we looking for in our next rector?

10:10 pm

Exercise I:

CONGREGATIONAL HEALTH INDEX

Adapted from *Faith Communities Today (FACT)*, one of the most significant contemporary studies of American congregations: the Cooperative Congregational Studies Project (CCSP) of the Hartford Institute for Religion Research.

KEY	
1	VERY TRUE OF US
2	QUITE TRUE
3	SOMEWHAT TRUE
4	SLIGHTLY TRUE
5	NOT AT ALL
N	NO IDEA: I CANNOT RATE

CHARACTERISTICS OF A HEALTHY CONGREGATION	Rating					
	1	2	3	4	5	N
1. Our congregation is spiritually vital and alive	1	2	3	4	5	N
2. We offer inspirational liturgy, preaching and music	1	2	3	4	5	N
3. We actively engage in pastoral care, one for another	1	2	3	4	5	N
4. We provide Christian education/formation for all ages	1	2	3	4	5	N
5. Our congregation is working for social justice	1	2	3	4	5	N
6. New people are easily assimilated into our congregation	1	2	3	4	5	N
7. Our congregation has a clear sense of mission and purpose	1	2	3	4	5	N
8. Our communications, internal and external, are effective	1	2	3	4	5	N
9. We have a working plan for lay leadership development	1	2	3	4	5	N
10. We are supportive of the Deanery, Diocese and National Church	1	2	3	4	5	N
11. Our vestry meetings are effective and energizing	1	2	3	4	5	N
12. Our congregation is involved in community service to our neighbors	1	2	3	4	5	N
13. We are good stewards of our property and finances	1	2	3	4	5	N
14. We have clear expectations of our parishioners	1	2	3	4	5	N
15. Our congregation is trying to increase its ethnic diversity	1	2	3	4	5	N
16. We deal openly with conflict	1	2	3	4	5	N
17. Parishioners are excited about the future of our congregation	1	2	3	4	5	N

- Circle your initial rating of each of the characteristics.
- Quick poll of the results by table leader, characteristic by characteristic.
- Brief discussion at table of any characteristics with wide disparity in answers. (Based on the discussion, you may change your answer.)
- Mark your final answers with an X.

10:30 am

Exercise II: Key words and phrases that describe Christ Church

Exercise based on The Episcopal Church (TEC) Office of Transition Ministry (OTM) Personal Ministry Portfolio form (for clergy) and Community Ministry Portfolio form (for parishes). Essential language for clergy searching for a parish by key words and phrases. Essential language for Parish Profile and OTM registration materials being prepared by the Search/Discernment Committee.

Ask yourself:

What is "the God's honest truth" about Christ Church?

- Write down 3 key words or phrases that best describe Christ Church
- On a separate sheet (provided), write down a tweet that describes Christ Church.
- Each table shares its key words and phrases and its tweets.

- Each table shares with the whole group one favorite key word or phrase.

11:00 am

Exercise III. Where are we headed as a parish?

Ask yourself: What are the major challenges or opportunities facing Christ Church?

- Write down the single biggest challenge or opportunity facing the parish.

- Discussion. Each table selects one challenge or opportunity to share with the whole group.

11:15 am

Exercise IV. What are the qualities we are looking for in a new rector?

- Write down the 2-3 qualities you personally most desire in a new rector.

- Discussion. Each table decides on one top quality most desired in a new rector.

11:30 am

Closing Prayer
Group photograph and dismissal.

All sheets from this workshop should be left behind.
The Search/Discernment Committee will continue this work.