

Warden's Note

Dear Friends and Fellow Travelers on The Way of Love (as Presiding Bishop Curry has phrased it)

Yesterday we, accompanied by our faithful scribe, Jim Steinborn, had the opportunity to visit with our Bishop Rob and our Bishop-elect Kym. Our first report to you is that we are most fortunate that God has sent Rev. Kym to be our Bishop at this time in history and specifically at this time in St. Paul's history. She exemplified to us all the positive qualities St. Paul described in his first instructional letter to Timothy (3:1-7: sensible, respectable, hospitable, apt teacher (which also means a good listener) and gentle.

Bishop Rob provided a good bit of our history to bring her up to date on where we are in our searches for Priest, Place and Purpose, inviting each of us to chime in to fill in gaps....and we quickly moved on to where we are now....

Regarding Priest: Bishop Rob said he has two potential candidates for our review but wants to chat first with Kym about each of them; Kym then asked each of us what we are looking for in a Priest in Charge. We responded that we basically want someone to walk alongside us as we seek to answer the other two issues and that we felt we had done a lot of discernment already and did not want someone who either had "all the answers" or wanted us to start from scratch. (We'd appreciate everyone's comments on this response over coffee!)

Regarding Purpose, we shared our mission of Welcome, Nurture and Serve and the ways that the congregation has truly stepped forward to fulfill this mission with numerous people engaged in Care-Giving, Welcoming, sharing Hospitality, Education, Social Justice and, for the moment, lots of furniture moving! with our Trinity and Mary of Magdala partners. Kym was very excited about all we described that we are doing and appeared eager to become a part of this adventure. She referenced the fact that she has many questions about how church might need updating in this century. ("Updating" is our word, not hers – it's the meaning we took from her comments.)

Regarding Place: We described the Place Committee's research into St. Paul's priorities established over the past 3+ years of discernment and the creation of a decision matrix using these priorities against which we will be able to evaluate our possible options for Place. We explained our plan to hold small discussion groups to review first the Matrix itself and then our plans to research each of our options – briefly describing options that have been and are being generally considered congregation-wide.

All in all we felt that both our Bishop and Bishop-elect were wonderfully hospitable and excited to be part of our St. Paul's adventure. We felt blessed by both of them and thankful to God for sending each of them to us at important transition times.

Faithfully your Wardens,
John and Rhoda