

Greetings,

We hope you and your families are all well. We wanted to take a moment to update you on the activities of the search committee and invite you to participate in focus groups.

All of us are adjusting to a world of COVID-19 and the disruptions associated with it—social distancing, telework, remote learning, and heaping loads of uncertainty. The search committee is a microcosm of the experience of the entire Parish. There have been days when we felt we couldn't possibly move forward. And there have been days when moving forward gave us strength.

We are grateful to report that we have been moving forward at an accelerating pace. As you may know, the first phase of the search process is devoted to information gathering. We have been able to learn many interesting things about The Falls Church Episcopal and our community. We hope to share some of those in the coming weeks. The primary vehicle for gathering information to date has been the survey. We would like to hear from each person, for each of us is a Member in Christ. If you have not already participated, and you would like to do so, you can find the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TFCReclipsesearch>.

The survey addresses many of the issues in our parish life. It was adapted from materials provided by the Diocese, and is intended both to help us learn more about who we are, and to help us discern what we want in a new Rector. There is another set of questions, though, that are best answered in conversation—just as we all are in conversation with the Holy Spirit.

To hold those conversations, we would like to meet in small groups. More specifically, groups of 10 people joined by 2 people from the search committee. Each group will discuss some variation of the questions that follow this message. In better times, these would have been a series of face-to-face meetings. Instead, we will use Zoom.

Here is a link to the [signup genius](#). Please pick ONE meeting to attend. We have included many groups and times, so that people have as many choices as possible. In addition to these targeted focus groups, broader groups will be held at a later time for anyone who has not yet had a chance to participate. As you might imagine, we will also have some meetings that are not part of the general sign-up. For example, we plan to speak with the staff of the Falls Church and the Day School, and will also have separate meetings for the High School and Middle School Youth.

Please feel free to send questions or suggestions to us at rectorsearch@thefallschurch.org

Thank you,
The Search Committee

Questions

1. Describe a recent project or event that the church participated in or organized that was a success and made you feel good?
2. How would you describe the services at Falls Church Episcopal? What differences do you see between the 9:00 and 11:00 service?
3. How are people included or involved in different ministries or groups at church?
4. How does Falls Church take care of church member's emotional, physical, and spiritual needs?
5. How does the church get involved with activities, events, causes in the larger community around it?
6. How does the church help others in the community and outside of the people who attend the church?
7. What is a ministry or work that was started within the last 5 years. Who would be a good person to talk about the ministry?
8. What is the church doing to be ready for how the Church will operate in the future?
9. How do people in the church give their time and money? How does that affect church life?
10. What is your worshipping community's experience of conflict? How have you addressed it?
11. What is your experience/leading change in the church? When has it gone well? When has it gone poorly? What did you learn?
12. Please provide words describing the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshipping community.