



## GOOD NEWS FROM THE PROFILE COMMITTEE

November 25, 2020

Dear Grace Parishioner,

On November 14<sup>th</sup> members of the Vestry, Profile and Search Committees met with The Rev. Dr. Rich Simpson, Canon to the Ordinary, to discuss the results of our recent parish survey. It was an uplifting and deeply affirming meeting and we are eager to share some of the highlights with you here.

Canon Simpson explained that our rector search is a prayerful process to explore the call, both for the congregation and for the priest in our future. It challenges us to define who we are and cultivates clarity around what kind of good priest we need in this next chapter of service.

What stands out the most in our survey results is that we are satisfied with the direction our church is going—no one disagreed! That is more than just good, it's unique. Based on our responses, we are the most satisfied congregation in the entire diocese and have a reputation for being a congregation most clergy would want to serve in. This good news leaves us poised to grow our mission-based ministry, rooted in a deep sense of advocacy for those in need around us. That said, the top three priorities of our congregation are to:

- Attract young families [all congregations put this as #1]
- Develop a strategy to reach new people [all congregations put this as #2]
- Strengthen the process for how members are called for ministry and leadership

When asked what drives us as a congregation, we responded overwhelmingly by saying we are ministry-focused with a strong partnership between clergy and lay members.

The survey also illuminated how flexible we are as a congregation. Much of that has to do with our collective story: the crumbling wall at St. James in 2008 that led to consolidation in 2012 with St. George who had already been contemplating the sale of their property in anticipation of change. Since then we've come to expect transformative change and have adapted when necessary, often with ease and grace.

More than anything, we want a priest who can understand that language and help us to be even more flexible in the future. We are looking for a partner, who happens to be ordained; a team-player, not a micro-manager; an intellectually alive preacher who also has the capacity to bring an open and loving heart to pastoral care. Sounds a lot like our beloved Rev. Janet . . . It's important to note the survey also revealed how much we miss her, how hard it was to say goodbye, and that we weren't ready for her to go. She won't be our next rector, but we can see that she's prepared us for who that person might be and for our future as a congregation.

GRACE CHURCH

The Profile Committee's next task is to flesh out the results of the survey with pictures, videos, and stories from you! This digitalized story of Grace will be posted on our website by March 1, 2021, before Canon Simpson attends the next Transitional Ministry Conference, at which time the search for candidates will officially open. Between now and then we will continue to give the congregation updates on our progress as we collect stories of your **best memories of the past 5 years** and your **hopes for Grace in the next 5**.

We hope you might be as encouraged by these results as we are, for God is at work in our congregation. We might be small, but we are also mighty and ready for our next priest to lead us into even deeper waters of God's love for each one of us in this beautiful world.

Finally, please pray with us daily:

**God of abundance and wisdom**, you have blessed Grace Church with love and respect for one another and with joy in our community. Help us to discern your will and to be open to your guidance as we seek a new rector for our parish. Grant us the ability to hear your voice as we listen to one another. Give us wisdom and patience, mutual respect, and clarity of vision, that we may choose and receive a priest who serves with warmth and humor, inspiration and faithfulness, and who will lead us where you are calling Grace Church to serve the mission of Jesus in this time and place. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

God's peace and the love of Jesus Christ be with each of you,

*The Profile Committee*

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THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE  
PROFILE SURVEY!