

St. Bede's Music Transition FAQs:

1) What is the timeline for our search for a new church musician?

John Whitt's final Sunday with us was July 26. For the next 4-6 weeks we will welcome a supply organist who will lead us musically in worship for those Sundays (apart from Sunday, August 16 when we will have a St. Bede's instrumental ensemble to lead us musically). We hope to have an Interim Organist & Choirmaster in place by the time the choir resumes on Sunday, September 13. We will then begin a search for a permanent Organist & Choirmaster – with the hope of having someone in place by the first of the year (possibly sooner).

2) Why an interim?

An interim is a time to be intentionally “between” leaders. This is especially helpful at times when someone, such as John Whitt, has been in the role for such a long season. It is a time to be in discernment – both about the person who is being called and about the music program to which that person is being called. It is a time of introspection and reflection on what the next season of music ministry at St. Bede's might look like. And it is often a time when we might try out some new things to see how they fit.

3) What is the difference between a “supply organist,” and an “Interim Organist & Choirmaster”?

A supply organist is an organist who is retained to help musically lead worship on a particular Sunday or, in this case, for a series of Sundays. We have often had supply organists when John has been on vacation. An Interim Organist & Choirmaster would have temporary oversight of the whole music program for the duration of the time of our search for a new Organist & Choirmaster.

4) Could the Interim Organist & Choirmaster be considered in the search for a permanent Organist & Choirmaster?

Possibly. It depends on the individual. Some folks who might fill the role only want to do such work part-time in retirement and are not looking for a permanent “gig”. Others might be open to being considered in the search for a permanent role. Serving as the interim would not preclude a possible candidate from being considered in the search.

5) Have we advertised the job? Are we taking recommendations?

We have not advertised the job – yet. Preparing a job description and then advertising that through diocesan, churchwide, and professional organists/church musician networks is a step that occurs a little later in the process. With that said, there is also the “Church grapevine” and people may be curious. It is fine to pass along “leads” and/or refer interested people to apply as the process moves forward. Those names may be sent to Chad.

6) Will we ever find someone as gifted and talented as John Whitt?

As Mister Rogers reminds us – there is only one person in the world exactly like YOU. And this is true of John Whitt. And this is true of the person that the Holy Spirit will be leading us to call as our next Organist & Choirmaster. There is no need to make comparisons. There is only the need to appreciate the unique and individual gifts of the person who will come to fill this role. Please keep this person in your prayers even though they (and we) do not yet know who that person is.