🕊️ St. Peter's at the Light Parish Communication

Search Committee: Role & Invitation to Serve

As we enter this important season in the life of St. Peter's, the Vestry will soon be forming a **Search Committee** to help discern our next priest.

We want to share what this committee does—and invite those who feel called to be part of this work to express interest.

✨ What Does the Search Committee Do?

The Search Committee is entrusted with helping the parish **discern who God is calling as our next priest**.

Their work includes:

- Listening to the congregation's hopes and needs
- Developing our **Parish Profile**
- Receiving and reviewing candidates
- Interviewing and praying through discernment
- Recommending candidate(s) to the Vestry

👉 *This is a spiritual process grounded in prayer, listening, and trust in the Holy Spirit*

🧭 How the Committee Is Formed

The **Vestry is responsible** for appointing the Search Committee, with guidance from the Diocese.

In doing so, the Vestry seeks a group that:

- Reflects the breadth of our parish community
- Demonstrates spiritual maturity and good judgment
- Can listen deeply and hold confidentiality
- **Approaches this work with humility, openness, and a genuine commitment to listening to many voices**
- Is willing to commit the necessary time and energy

🙏 Invitation to Express Interest

If you feel called to serve in this ministry of discernment, we invite you to share your interest with the Vestry no later than Monday, March 23, 2026.

You may do so by:

- **Speaking with Wardens:**
  Tom MacArthur 732-930-4659 or
  Maria Schmidt 908-391-3864

- **Sending an email of interest to:**
  Tom MacArthur TMac@nisgh.com or
  Maria Schmidt meschmidt7@earthlink.com

Please include a few words about:

- Why you feel called to serve
- Your involvement at St. Peter's
- Any gifts you feel you would bring to this work

⚖️ A Note on the Process

Expressing interest does not mean automatic selection.

The Vestry will prayerfully discern the final composition of the Search Committee, seeking a **balanced and representative group** for this important work.

🕰️ Approximate Time Commitment

Serving on the Search Committee is a meaningful and rewarding ministry—but it does require a **significant commitment of time and energy over several months**.

- The process typically lasts **6–9 months**
- Members can expect to meet regularly, with a consistent and manageable schedule established by the committee
- Time will be needed for reading, reflection, and prayer

👉 *Most members will spend additional time during key phases such as candidate review and interviews*

🤝 A Role for Everyone in This Process

While only a small number of parishioners will serve on the Search Committee, **this is the work of the entire parish**.

There will be many meaningful ways for all to participate, including:

- Sharing your voice through parish surveys and gatherings
- Participating in listening sessions
- Welcoming candidates when the time comes
- Offering your prayers and encouragement throughout the process

👉 *Not being on the Search Committee does not mean being on the sidelines – it means being part of the broader discernment of our community.*

We are grateful for every person who feels called to serve, and we trust that **each of us has a role to play in this season**.

💖 How the Parish Can Support This Work

- Pray for wisdom and clarity
- Participate when invited to share input
- Encourage and support those serving
- Trust the process as it unfolds

🌿 Closing

"For everything there is a season…" (Ecclesiastes 3)
This is a season of listening, hope, and faithful discernment. We trust that God is already at work, preparing the next chapter for our beloved community, St. Peter's at the Light

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