

DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE SEPTEMBER UPDATE #1B

Our search for a new rector began in August of last year when over seventy of us met for a “Day of Discovery”. This was a facilitated process in which we discussed what is important and special about our worship and our congregation as well as what attributes and skills we want in a new rector. The conclusions of that day formed the foundations for the work of the discernment committee.

The committee membership was approved by the Vestry and began its work, under the guidance of the old Office of Transitional Ministry (OTM) format and protocols, about a year ago. We submitted our proposed answers to Twelve Congregational Questions for OTM and the Parish Profile for Vestry approval in late November. They were submitted to the Diocese in December and uploaded into the OTM database on January 7, 2026.

Shortly afterwards we purchased an announcement of our vacancy in the Episcopal News Service. It ran until immediately before Holy Week and for two months afterwards. Those announcements generated several hundred “hits” at the ENS website, but not a single application. We also wrote about a dozen letters or emails to clergy whom we thought might be able to recommend Church of Our Saviour to their colleagues, again, with no results. We purchased a classified ad in The Living Church newsletter for two months.

Days before Holy Week we were informed that the Vocation Hub system was about to be activated and that our work would be transferred into the Vocation Hub format. Subsequently, and on two separate occasions, we received the names of candidates. In each case we reviewed their application packages. We also prepared for and interviewed each via Zoom. In one case the candidate was forced to withdraw due to a family emergency. In the other, after much prayerful consideration, we found the candidate’s talents did not fit the needs of our church.

Recently we learned that not all of the information we provided in our OTM submittals had been transferred to the new Vocation Hub format. Working with Interim Canon to the Ordinary Robert Philips we were able to promptly make the appropriate updates and our Vocation Hub listing is now fully complete.

The final in this series will discuss our plans for the future as well as HOW YOU CAN HELP.