

DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE SEPTEMBER UPDATE #1A

This is the first in what will be a 3-part series to better acquaint you with the process of filling our vacant Rector position. Update 1A is description of how the Episcopal Church Vocation Hub program operates from our perspective. Update 1B will cover what we have done to date and what steps we have taken to “enhance” the Vocation Hub program. Update 1C will ask you to consider a specific way in which you can assist in the efforts of our Discernment Committee.

Vocation Hub is the Episcopal Church’s system for posting and describing positions that parishes or diocesan offices seek to fill. It also allows clergy to express interest in specific positions or in the types of positions they may wish to pursue. Vocation Hub recently replaced the former Office of Transition Ministry (OTM) system.

The Canon to the Ordinary (CTTO) for each diocese usually serves as the primary contact for both the parish and the potential candidates. A parish announces its vacancy by submitting to their CTTO a Congregational Vocation Hub Profile, which addresses several questions about the ministries, finances, history, needs, and programs of the church. At that time, they also submit a Parish Profile that is a more attractive pamphlet-like, illustrated, document describing the parish and what it is looking for in a new priest or other position. If they approve of these documents the CTTO enters the information into the Vocation Hub database.

Potential candidates express interest in a position through the CTTO in the diocese where the vacancy is located. They may also maintain a Vocation Hub Profile – more comprehensive than a resume, with information about their skills, values, and faith – with the CTTO in their current diocese.

The national list of vacancies, with position details, is publicly accessible. There are currently over 150 open positions. Most of them are for a Rector. All changes to a listing must be made by the CTTO. Parishes may not do so directly. Churches do not have access to the listing of clergy who may be interested in a new calling.

Typically, the CTTO in the applicant’s home diocese is contacted by the CTTO serving the parish with the vacancy after they have received the applicant’s expression of interest in a position. Only then are the applicant’s resume and profile shared with the parish. Alternatively, the CTTO’s regularly interact with one another and may offer suggestions to clergy in their diocese on specific openings to consider in another diocese or identify excellent candidates from their diocese in response to a listed vacancy.

The next in this series will discuss how we got to where we’re at.