

### **Calling Committee Report February 10, 2010**

At the Annual meeting, we announced our enthusiasm for a candidate which, ultimately, was not shared by the Bishop. We have adjusted our process to engage the Bishop earlier to ensure any inconsistencies in our discernment are flushed out earlier in the process. We remain steadfast in our commitment to find the right person to share our faith journey as our next Rector. We are encouraged by the renewed strength and optimism on the team as we continue to move the process forward.

Lord, we know you hold us in your hands.  
Open our ears, and warm our hearts  
to heed your call to us. Amen.

**Rich Gomez, for the Calling Committee**

### **Calling Committee Report October 12, 2009**

The positive response to the October 4<sup>th</sup> Adult Forum has been overwhelming! So much so, that the choir has requested that we repeat it at a time convenient for them. Not settling for any candidate who did not meet the essential qualifications put forth in your Parish Profile, the Calling Committee regretted four candidates who were brought in to A&HT for further discernment. This meant starting from ground zero once again! This was received as a joyful move, and thus we have already brought in two additional candidates, made arrangements for Bishop Briedenthal to meet them, had several telephone interviews and are in process of checking references. The Diocese, especially Canon John Johanssen (Canon to the Ordinary), has been more than helpful in guiding our process. The Diocesan background check on some candidates is now in progress. This is quite an expense to the Diocese, but is clearly a necessity. The Holy Spirit is energetically at work! Let us join together with our new prayer as the entire parish searches with patience, courage, strength and optimism for our new rector!

Lord, we know you hold us in your hands.  
Open our ears, and warm our hearts  
to heed your call to us. Amen.

**Nancy McCue, Calling Committee bulletin reporter**

### **Calling Committee Report August 7, 2009**

Meeting excellent candidates: After completing many phone interviews, your search committee is now meeting face-to-face with the candidates whose experience and energies seem an excellent match to lead this parish to thrive. These come from the first group of people to respond to our profile by sending written responses. There are other gifted people in earlier laps of the race, so we are continuing to do phone interviews and reference checks. We are blessed indeed to be in dialogue with great priests who have embarked on this process of mutual discernment with our parish. Please keep our work continually in your prayers. We are praying and working hard, and with joy!

**Ariel Miller, Calling Committee bulletin reporter**

### **Calling Committee Report July 10, 2009**

The Calling Committee is working actively to find our next Rector, with God's help. We are conducting phone interviews for those candidates whose responses to our inquiry appear consistent with our essential qualifications. We have screened over eighty candidates from a variety of sources, and are very excited about a handful of the prospects we have screened so far! We are already pursuing references for some of these stronger candidates.

We want the parish to share in our excitement but to remain patient -- the process is detailed and deliberate, and takes time to do it properly. Importantly, we remain confident our process will deliver against our objective of finding the right candidate to be with us this fall.

Feel free to ask questions of your Calling Committee. We are: Maurice Bason, David Bence, Rich Gómez, Margot Madison, Nancy McCue, Ariel Miller, Ian Stevens, and Kim Wissemann (Vestry Liaison).

**Rich Gómez, Calling Committee bulletin reporter**

### **Calling Committee Report June 5, 2009**

We're interviewing! The calling committee has begun phone interviews with priests who have responded with interest in applying to be our next rector. It is exciting to be talking to real, live candidates! We are doing these initial conversations as teams of two so that we can compare notes and cover the bases, and began presenting notes to the whole committee last week.

Please continue your prayers for wise mutual discernment by your committee and the candidates.

**Ariel Miller, Calling Committee bulletin reporter**

### **Calling Committee Report May 3, 2009**

Responses to the letters we sent to prospective candidates have been coming in almost daily over the past two weeks. We have asked that all interested candidates have their responses in to Rich and Maurice by May 10th. Throughout the rest of May and the beginning of June we will be working in pairs to conduct the telephone interviews.

The Calling Committee has spent several hours refining the questions that we will be using during the telephone interviews to help us identify those candidates who can help our parish achieve its goals. Pat joined our meeting last week to share potential questions that candidates may ask us to ensure that we prepare honest, balanced answers. Thank you Pat!

**Kim Wissemann, Calling Committee bulletin reporter**

### **Calling Committee Report April 7, 2009**

**Search team news - our dance card is filling up!** On his first day back from a family trip, Canon Johanssen immediately made time to come to our Tuesday night meeting to walk through a clergy profile and discuss how the information is compiled as well as its potential utility to search committees. He also brought two more resumes with the exciting news that clergy are starting to discover our online profile and respond to it with interest. The first group of people whose profiles he sent us are "wonderful candidates!" he says. This is a function of the current recession, he explained: "There are lots and lots of great clergy in churches that are now unable to afford them - people who in other circumstances would not be looking." As an example, John cited that the Diocese of Detroit has laid-off most of its staff.

We also learned that in a situation where housing costs and the difficulty of selling houses are real concerns, having a rectory is becoming an advantage again after many years of being out of favor. This

means we can provide a very valuable housing package which saves the priest a lot of out-of-pocket expense, making our compensation package more competitive than we realized.

We quizzed Canon Johannsen on the kinds of questions priests are likely to ask us in interviews, while sharing with him the qualifications and interview process we are developing. We've received three more clergy names from parishioners and will be sending out profiles with cover letters on Easter Monday. Thus, please be sure to tell one of our co-chairs BY EASTER SUNDAY the names of any additional priests you would like us to contact. A wonderful Easter to you all! Please keep praying for God's wisdom and energy to guide and inspire this parish as we move forward towards calling our next rector.

**Ariel Miller, Calling Committee bulletin reporter**

### **Calling Committee Report March 16, 2009**

A&HT in the spotlight! This week Canon John Johannsen set off for a regional deployment conference with a bag of A&HT profiles, eager to showcase our parish – one of only two in our diocese which is currently ready to review names of candidates for rector. John expressed great admiration for the clarity and honesty of this church's self-assessment and commented on several factors that make this an exciting opportunity for ministry.

Our calling committee studied the profile and worked with John to complete an online summary of our goals, desired rector qualifications, and demographics. This has now been entered into the Church Deployment Office's national database. The database includes all active clergy, whether they are seeking a new position or not. Within a few weeks the CDO will send us profiles of clergy whose experience best matches the specifications in this summary.

Meeting several times over the last three weeks, the calling committee is building great camaraderie and teamwork based on complementary skills. We've agreed on an efficient process for contacting potential candidates and assessing their fit to the hopes and goals conveyed in the parish profile. If you know a priest who you think could be a good fit for A&HT, please give that person's name and contact information to any of the members of the calling committee as soon as you can.

The search committee was prayerfully chosen by the Vestry to represent the diversity of this parish. We are: Maurice Bason and Rich Gomez, co-chairs, Kim Wissemann as Vestry Liaison, Bob Allan, David Bence, Margot Madison, Nancy McCue, Ariel Miller, Ian Stevens, and Dawn Thomas. We'll give you frequent updates as the adventure unfolds.

**Ariel Miller, Calling Committee bulletin reporter**