

## PARISH SELECTION UPDATE

## SEARCHING FOR A NEW RECTOR

From Eric Preston, Chair of your Parish Selection Committee. This is the 3rd update.

Work on preparing the Parish Profile, the first step in the selection process for our new priest, is well underway. Members of the Parish Selection Committee are preparing the background sections and gathering photographs. The Parish Survey that we launched on January 24 has already been completed by over 50 parishioners.

### FOCUS GROUPS:

The next step in the process is to conduct a series of consultations with you, the parishioners of Holy Trinity, to find out more about what's important to you about Holy Trinity and what clergy gifts and experience would best serve Holy Trinity as we plan for a healthy, thriving future. The consultations will be conducted in small focus group meetings. Each group will involve no more than 12 people, facilitated by our Diocesan coaches, Elizabeth McCaffrey and Brian Hatch. Depending on the number of focus groups and their timing, PSC members may assist Brian and Elizabeth.

We are offering up to eight separate times over a period of three weeks to complete this consultation by February 24<sup>th</sup>.

To ensure the focus groups are most effective, we will schedule them to accommodate the most parishioners and limit each group to 12 people. All focus groups will be held on Zoom.

**Please click the Focus Group Form button below.** It will take you to the FORM where you can select the 3 groups you'd be able to attend. We'll do our best to schedule you into one of those groups.

## **FOCUS GROUP FORM**

Depending on the number of parishioners who plan to attend, we may not hold a session on each of the possible times over that three-week period. If the interest level is high and we have more people wanting to attend than we can accommodate in the first three weeks, we will add more sessions in March after Vestry.

Once we have the sessions organized, we will contact you to confirm your session and the link to it or phone number to join the group. Due to continuing concerns about COVID, the focus groups will be held virtually. Those parishioners unable to connect via Zoom will be able to join via phone.

The survey and focus groups are intended to complement each other. Together they will provide us with a comprehensive and enhanced insight into the views of the parish. The survey will provide us with a quantitative look at the make-up of the congregation and your views on what's important about life at Holy Trinity and our new priest. The focus groups will ask somewhat comparable questions on what you like about Holy Trinity and what you'd like to see in our new priest but will give you an opportunity to explore these issues with your fellow parishioners and to provide more nuance or insight on the answers that's not possible to collect in a survey. We hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity to work with your fellow parishioners and help shape the future of Holy Trinity Thornhill.

As always, reaching everyone in the congregation can be a bit challenging. If you know of a parishioner who doesn't have an email address and may not be attending zoom services, please share this information with them. If you have a comment or suggestion, you'd like to make but won't be attending the focus groups, you can always send us an email via the Parish Selection Committee email address on the website or you can send a letter to the church office marked to the attention of the Parish Selection Committee. Thanks in advance for your participation. We look forward to hearing your views.



### **PRAYER FOR HOLY TRINITY THORNHILL'S PARISH SELECTION**

**ALMIGHTY GOD, LOOK GRACIOUSLY ON US THE MEMBERS OF HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, THORNHILL, DURING THIS TIME OF TRANSITION. BE WITH US AND LEAD US AS WE SEEK THE NEXT PRIEST AND PASTOR FOR OUR COMMUNITY.**

**WE ASK YOUR DIRECTION AND GUIDANCE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN APPOINTED TO IDENTIFY A NEW INCUMBENT, THAT WE MAY CHOOSE A COMPETENT AND FAITHFUL LEADER WHO WILL CARE FOR YOUR PEOPLE AND EQUIP US FOR MINISTRY. GRANT THEM EARS TO HEAR THE VOICES OF THOSE WHOM THEY WILL INTERVIEW, EARS TO HEAR EACH OTHER AS THEY DELIBERATE, AND EARS THAT ARE ATTENTIVE TO YOUR VOICE AS THEY DISCERN THE BEST CHOICE FOR US AT THIS TIME.**

**CONTINUE TO LEAD US WITH YOUR HOLY SPIRIT, AS WE PATIENTLY WAIT UPON YOU AND ON THE OUTCOME OF THIS PROCESS. THIS WE ASK THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN**

*Written by Canon Stephen Fields, 2021*