

OUR SEARCH FOR
A NEW GENERATION OF LEADERSHIP

October 29, 2010

In September, John Guest announced his plans to retire as Rector and Senior Pastor at the end of the year. As he approaches his 75th year we can understand his interest in retirement and are pleased our church will remain his spiritual home.

As we enter the final months of John's tenure, we do so with a sense of appreciation and celebration for the fifteen years he has shepherded our church family. During this time, Parish Council and our congregation will be active in initiating a search for our next Rector and Senior Pastor – a new generation of leadership.

We are a young church with traditional values – tested by time and based on scripture, our final authority in all matters of faith and practice. We are a non-denominational evangelical church worshiping in the Anglican tradition. This is who we are. The sole purpose of our search is continuity of leadership - to find the best person available to succeed the Reverend Dr. John Guest.

The Parish Council has been prayerfully considering the transition to his successor for the last year. To that end, the Parish Council recently retained the services of The Armstrong Group (TAG) to assist us in church succession planning and in defining the search process. In working with TAG, we will develop a blueprint for our search process and will employ best practices associated with church leadership transition.

We anticipate launching the assessment phase of our search process in November with a congregational on-line survey, senior staff analysis, and a series of focus groups. A Rector and Senior Pastor Profile will be created out of these activities. The Search Committee also will be formed during this phase and will be appointed by Parish Council. Following the church assessment, Parish Council, the Search Committee and senior staff will participate in a 1½-day planning retreat that will prepare us for the launch of our search.

Our search must be a spiritual journey guided by the prayers of the entire church. We seek the Lord's will and the person He has prepared to lead us. Satan loves the playground of a church seeking a new Rector. Therefore, we must pray, avoid gossip, be patient and seek His will, not our own. To be successful, we need the Holy Spirit to guide our efforts and our decisions.

Our search must respect the confidentiality of the candidates we contact and, at the same time, keep our members informed of the process and progress of the Search Committee. The Chairman of the Search Committee will give us timely reports on the progress of our search. We plan to schedule periodic progress report meetings for the congregation, as well as utilize our newsletter and other correspondence to keep you informed of our progress.

John Guest is available to us in 2011 for consultation in his role as Minister at Large. Bruce Cote, our Senior Associate Pastor, will provide leadership for our church during this period.

The position of Rector and Senior Pastor of Christ Church at Grove Farm is an attractive position for qualified candidates to consider. We have very effective ministries and have been fiscally responsible. I am confident the Lord will guide us to an outstanding candidate to lead our church.

Our commitment is to conduct the search in as open and transparent a manner as possible and to communicate with our members in a timely manner. Eventually, Parish Council will recommend a candidate. In the end our members must vote for our next Rector and Senior Pastor. We ask for your prayers as we undertake this important mission. I have faith that we will be successful in following the Lord's plan for our church.

My hope is that the search will bring us together in support of a new generation of leadership for our church. I ask you to join me in this spiritual journey. Let us rejoice in what the Lord has planned for our church.

Your brother in Christ,
Robert J. Wagner
Senior Warden