**Search Committee – September 5th First Sunday of the Month Update**

This past Wednesday, September 1, 2021, the Trinity Parish Profile was posted on the diocesan website <https://www.diomass.org/clergy_transition> and included in the diocesan FYI newsletter. This indicates that Trinity Church Topsfield is in search and receiving names for a 3/4-time rector. It was also posted prominently on our <https://trinitytopsfield.org/> website home page to be shared with all parishioners per diocesan protocol.

The Search Committee will next meet on Wednesday, September 29th in person at Trinity with Canon Martha Hubbard and our consultant Jane Redmont for prep session #2 which will focus on how to review the application portfolios, how to interview, avoiding our own biases, and the discernment process at various stages of the search.

As applications begin to come in after the Sept. 1st profile release date, they are acknowledged and are reviewed by the Search Committee on a regular basis, usually once a week up to the deadline for submissions. Note: No discernment may take place until after the deadline for submissions, October 31st. **The** **confidential stage of the process** begins at that time. The Search Committee keeps the parish posted in general on the process but does not disclose names of or information about the candidates.

The confidentiality period in the process and will provide only a general update to the Vestry, the parish community, and Rev. Rebecca, fully observing the confidentiality of this part of the process. For example, updates may be “we are receiving applications, but we cannot give you any further information" and as time goes on, they may be "we have narrowed down the list and will begin interviewing next month, but we cannot give you any identifying details" and the like.

We realize that confidentiality will be a challenge, but confidentiality is crucial as the word travels very fast in the Episcopal Church and even faster within a single parish, diocese, or deanery. Thank you for your understanding and prayers of support.

Sincerely, Your Search Committee

Members of the Search Committee are Carol Westhaver and John Wilson (Co-chairs), Ben Bollinger (Chaplain), Mark Young and Cyndi Bernhard-Sanger (Co-Secretaries), and Denise Aldridge, Jan Gaboriault, Joan Campbell, and Mike McKay.

**We walk in faith together. Thank you for being a part of the New Rector Search process!**