



# The Word

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church Newsletter • Herndon, VA

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## **Rector Search Committee News**

The Rector Search Committee (RSC) continues to pursue our final objective of recommending a new Rector for St. Timothy's in a timely manner. In finding the ideal candidate there are several phases of the process to carefully and thoughtfully address. The RSC is working diligently to review and report on the multiple areas of parish life that profile St. Timothy's. Each member of the RSC has volunteered for a role or roles that best suit their talent in contributing to our most important goal of making sure the congregation is confident we are taking full account of their views, needs and interests in proposing a new Rector.

There are some key efforts underway to pursue one major product of Rector Search, the Parish Profile or Portfolio. In producing a Profile, some of the tasks include gathering feedback from the congregation through Focus Groups and Surveys, preparing a historical history of St. Timothy's, developing an explanation of church finances and stewardship, and explaining St. Timothy's role in the community and the diocese. Each area must be considered carefully and the tasks executed thoughtfully and expediently. The RSC is fortunate in having members whose talents lend themselves well and uniquely to the multiple roles needed for these tasks.

Throughout May you may have heard about the Focus Groups the RSC held. Focus Groups are one tool the RSC is using to reach out to the congregation to learn how people feel about St. Timothy's and what characteristics are most important in a new Rector. The initial Focus Groups have focused on established groups, such as Hand Bell Choir, or groups with common interests, such as Young Families and Shrine Mont Retreat participants.

Focus Groups are meant to invite feedback from a broad section of parishioners and include as many different types of interests and ministries as possible. Typically, the Focus Group is a small gathering to encourage informality and many opportunities for each person to voice recommendations. The RSC wants to get the perspective of as many individuals and representatives of ministries as we can. Your participation is welcome and if you want to recommend a ministry you're a member of or, you have a suggestion for a Focus Group gathering please contact the RSC with your thoughts. Focus Groups will continue over the next several months and will be scheduled when it's most convenient for the specific group to participate. The RSC particularly wants to include as many people as possible.

The RSC is also pursuing two other key components needed to prepare a Parish Profile, a congregation wide survey and an explanation of Stewardship and Finance. The Focus Groups will assist in developing the survey questions and will allow the RSC to target the most important areas to address when considering a candidate. Both the Focus Groups and the Survey are vital in understanding what is most important to the congregation when selecting a new Rector. The RSC intends to distribute a parish wide survey early this fall.

The Stewardship and Finance piece of the Parish Profile is particularly important because it will explain to any future candidate the financial picture of St. Timothy's. It will reflect our financial circumstances, our approach to Stewardship and our ability to compensate the clergy and staff. An upcoming S&F focus group will inform the RSC on how best to represent the Stewardship and Finance in the Profile.

In order to accomplish our duty as successfully and clearly as possible the RSC has defined guiding principles to apply to each task as we proceed. Our intention is that this guide will allow us to focus on what we most want to accomplish and to prepare an overall picture of our congregation that is consistent and complete. While undertaking the Rector Search is not simple or quick, our objective is to use our guiding principles to move ahead steadily and thoroughly.

What can individuals do to help the RSC succeed? Share your ideas and suggestions with us, [RSC@saint-timothys.org](mailto:RSC@saint-timothys.org) or speak to any of us individually. Pray for the RSC and the church. St. Timothy's is a unique church made up of people who worship here because of the fellowship and spiritual nurture it provides. *"Lord Jesus, thank you for keeping us united in your grace, hope and love as we minister to each other during our time of transition."*