

## Parish Search Committee News

The work of finding a new priest for St. Leonard's is well underway. We have had great support from Bishop Yu, who met with the Wardens in early summer. Bishop Yu advised that the Search Committee should include the two Wardens, as well as four to six other parishioners who represent a cross section of the parish. On September 11, Vestry met and accepted the Churchwardens' recommendation to appoint Gillian Faulkner, Michael Boyer, Lei MacFarlane, Diana Aymong, Ray Whitney and David McClellan to the Selection Committee.

The committee met with Bishop Yu on September 27 to review the process to be followed to identify a new priest for St. Leonard's. Bishop Yu advised that the selection process for a new priest is governed by <sup>1</sup>Canon Law and that he has appointed a coach (Norah Bolton) to help the committee through some of the nuts and bolts of the process, and generally to support us in our efforts. Norah has specific training in supporting selection committees and we feel very fortunate to have her assistance. We are especially pleased that Norah has some knowledge of St. Leonard's as she has also been involved with us through the Natural Church Development process which the parish began about two years ago.

In the coming weeks, the Bishop will post the vacancy on the Diocesan website to advise interested priests of the opportunity in our parish. The Committee's first order of business will be to develop a Parish Profile. The Profile will describe the parish in considerable detail and will be published on our parish website for viewing by interested priests. Any interested priests will be able to review the profile to determine if they feel a calling to participate in our selection process. Bishop Yu may also identify candidate priests who he feels would serve our parish well and will ask them to consider our profile to determine if there might be a good fit.

Eventually, the Bishop will present the Search Committee with a list of potential candidates interested in becoming our parish priest. The Committee will then interview the candidates and attend a normal parish service at their current home parish to "see them in action". After interviewing all the candidates, the Search Committee will meet with the Bishop to discuss our future appointment. After discussions with the selected candidate, Bishop Yu will then appoint our new parish priest. The whole process can be expected to take up to nine (9) months!

As you could imagine, because we are dealing with people's careers, the Search Committee will be unable to discuss any specifics of our progress—especially once the list of candidates is provided to us by the Bishop. We need to be discreet and cannot share with anyone the names of those who are being considered.

So how can you help? Tell us what kind of priest will meet the needs of the parish. What attributes are you looking for in your priest? Do you know a priest who would serve us well? Tell us in confidence. We can offer the Bishop suggestions. The more feedback you offer, the better the Selection Committee will understand and represent the Parish. We may also ask some of you to assist us in amalgamating the information to be included in our Parish Profile. Any support you can offer will be appreciated!

The Selection Committee members are regular attendees of either the 8:00 or the 10:15 services and are generally available for discussion after service. We want input from as many parishioners as possible. If you have a preferred forum, let us know! If you would like to speak with any member individually, or as a group, please contact us through the church office.

Your St. Leonard's Parish Search Committee:

Gillian Faulkner

Diana Aymong

Michael Boyer

Lei MacFarlane

Ray Whitney

David McClellan

<sup>1</sup>Canon Laws are enactment of the area (Diocesan) Synod, the governing body composed of clergy and people from each parish in the area.