



The Church of
St. Mary
Magdalene
THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

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PARISH SELECTION COMMITTEE

UPDATE #2

5 April 2009

Parishioner Input

Since my first update to you 3 weeks ago, the Parish Selection Committee (PSC) has met weekly, focusing its attention on developing our **Parish Profile**. You will recall that the Parish Profile will be our way to “introduce” SMM to prospective candidates. The intent is that it will be a very thorough document, which will include items such as : history, demographics, current and future ministry, status of buildings, budget and finances, mission, leadership, growth, teaching, worship and liturgy, outreach, and change and learning.

An important element of that process, is seeking input from parishioners. To be as thorough as possible, the PSC has decided to employ two methods to gather this information: focus groups and a questionnaire.

Focus Groups

Focus groups are small discussions aided by **facilitators** to help keep participants on track. Eight focus group discussions currently have been scheduled, with three more to be organized. Each of these initial 8 groups is open to any member of the parish who wishes to come and share their thoughts. The remaining three will be more distinctly themed: youth, children, and the midweek Italian congregation.

Discussions will revolve around four topics:

- Worship
- Music
- Programs
- Outreach

For each of those topics, the facilitator will lead the group through a **SWOT** analysis, asking participants to list associated **S**trengths, **W**eaknesses, **O**pportunities, and **T**hreats. All ideas are valued and

will be written down as presented during the discussions. Facilitators will try to keep the discussions to about 1 hour. It will then be the job of the PSC to process this information for inclusion in the Parish Profile.

Dates and times for the initial 8 focus groups are:

- Saturday, 18 April, 11:30am
- Sunday, 19 April, 11:00am and 1:00pm
- Tuesday, 21 April, 7:00pm
- Wednesday, 22 April, 7:00pm
- Saturday, 25 April, 11:30am
- Sunday, 26 April, 11:00am and 1:00pm

Sign-Up sheets will be available with PSC members after all masses on Palm Sunday and Easter Day. You can also email me as PSC Chair with your preferred session (rcastle@yorku.ca), or call me at 416.530.1372.

Focus Groups will be limited in size to 15. If there are insufficient requests for a particular time, then it may be amalgamated with another session. If demand is greater than the number of spaces available, then the PSC will try to schedule more times.

Please give prayerful consideration to participating in one of the focus groups to help the PSC develop the most comprehensive profile possible.

Questionnaire

In early to mid-May, the PSC will be distributing a **questionnaire** to all parishioners. Its purpose will be to discern demographic information, expectations of our future incumbent’s role, as well as your opinions on a range of subjects concerning SMM. The questionnaire is still in development and will be informed, in part, by the results of the all the focus groups.

Conclusion

The work of your PSC continues at an impressive rate. We remain committed to a very tight time frame to complete our tasks. As we move towards the focus groups and questionnaire, we enter the most important phase of our information gathering : receiving the direct input from all parishioners. It is a critical time in our process and I encourage you all to participate in



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a focus group and to complete the questionnaire when available. Your participation will be key to making this a thorough and fulfilling process.

Sincerely,

Rob Castle
PSC Chairperson

PSC MEMBERS

Rob Castle
Brian Clarke
Elizabeth Cowling
Vicki Hathaway

Heather McGregor
Eileen Morrison
Lorna Scott

**PRAYERS FOR THE PARISH SELECTION
COMMITTEE**

Almighty God who knowest the needs of thy church in every place: Look graciously at this time upon the people of this parish, and give them a faithful pastor who shall feed thy flock according to thy will and make ready a people acceptable unto thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BCP, p. 45

Almighty God, giver of all good gifts. Look on your church with grace, and guide the minds of those who shall choose a Priest for this parish, that we may receive a faithful servant who will care for your people and support us in our ministries, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BAS, p. 676