



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

477 Manning Avenue  
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## PARISH SELECTION COMMITTEE

# UPDATE #3

17 May 2009

### Parishioner Input

Over the last 4 weeks, the PSC has been reaching out to parishioners to gather information to help in the development of our Parish Profile. Your response has been impressive and appreciated.

Approximately 90 people participated in 9 **focus groups** between 18 April and 3 May. Through the four prescribed topics – worship, music, programs and outreach – participants were able to offer frank and constructive assessments of many important elements of the life of our parish.

During the last two Sundays (3 & 10 May) **parish questionnaires** were distributed. At the time of writing, some 116 questionnaires had been completed and returned, with excellent representation from each of the three services.

The raw data from the focus groups and questionnaire are currently being compiled, with the results of each being made available to the parish.

Members of the PSC would like to thank all of you who participated in the focus groups and who completed the questionnaire. Your input will prove invaluable as the Parish Profile begins to take shape.

### Status of SMM's Parish Profile

As well as facilitating the focus groups and developing and distributing the questionnaire, the PSC has continued to meet at least once per week. Almost all sections of the Parish Profile have been completed in first draft form by individual PSC members and will be reviewed collectively by the PSC at its upcoming meeting. Based on comments and suggestions at that time, two members of the PSC will then edit all the

draft sections into a common document with a common editorial voice.

The PSC aims to have the Profile completed within 2-3 weeks. Our final draft will be forwarded to Bishop Poole for his review. Once the Bishop has reviewed the Profile, we will in all likelihood post it on our website for prospective candidates to be able to gain easy access to it.

### Next Steps

Once the Profile is completed, the PSC will start to address a number of issues including:

- Based on all the information we have compiled, what are the key characteristics we are seeking in our next parish priest?
- Develop interview questions and interview format.
- Establish interview schedule.
- Arrange discreet visitations to candidates' home parishes.
- In consultation with the Wardens and Bishop, determine the status of the Rectory with respect the search process (i.e. will residency be an expectation?)
- Determine decision making protocols.

### Timing

The PSC's goal has always been to minimize the time between Father Harold's retirement and his successor's appointment. This is a goal shared by Bishop Poole. However, with summer fast approaching, we must be realistic about what can be accomplished, taking into consideration holidays and summer service schedules. In consultation with Bishop Poole, the PSC agrees that it is unlikely that we would interview prospective candidates during the summer. Interviews will only be arranged once the PSC has received the short list of candidates from Bishop Poole. Those are the only candidates we are allowed to interview. When one factors in reasonable time lines for first and possibly second interviews, as well as standard notice periods for clergy to their current parish, it is likely that we would expect our new priest's incumbency to start sometime in the early New Year. Naturally, the PSC will do all it can to



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minimize the interim period, but parishioners should be prepared for an interim period of between 2 & 4 months.

### **Providing Names**

A few parishioners have indicated that they would like to recommend prospective candidates to the PSC. With the imminent completion of the Profile, the PSC is now in a position to accept names. Any member of the parish who wishes to put forward a name may do so in the following manner:

- Write the proposed candidate's name and identifying information (current appointment, diocese, etc) on a sheet of paper.
- Include your own name (no candidates' names will not be accepted anonymously)
- Seal in an envelope addressed to :  
Rob Castle,  
PSC Chairperson
- Provide the envelope to me or any member of the PSC
- Or provide the same information by email to me at : [rcastle@yorku.ca](mailto:rcastle@yorku.ca)

The PSC will review all names received and submit them to the Bishop for his review.

Once again, thanks to those who have participated in our outreach program over the last few weeks. Your contribution has been exceptional.

Sincerely,

Rob Castle  
PSC Chairperson

### **PSC MEMBERS**

Rob Castle	Heather McGregor
Brian Clarke	Eileen Morrison
Elizabeth Cowling	Lorna Scott
Vicki Hathaway	

### **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