

Since the last vestry meeting the Transition Team (Karen Keese, Alexis Stark, Emilie Cummins, Franz Schirk) has met several times and is moving ahead with its assigned twin tasks of easing the transition time between rectors and of finding an interim rector. To help Fr. Rick, as well as the interim who will follow him, to quickly find who in the congregation has taken on which functions we consolidated that information in a St. Thomas organizational chart and attached names and contact information to it. The chart is available on the St. Thomas web site and in hard copy in the church office.

In finding an interim rector, a meeting with Canon Val Ambrose on 2 February was very helpful to the Team. She answered our questions and provided us with important background materials. She also gave us some needed reality checks for our work. First, as we had been previously warned by Canon James, there is an extreme shortage of priests in the Episcopal Church. Hence our pool of potential applicants is very, very small. This shortage would normally have encouraged us to cast the net as wide as possible, maybe even nationally. But the second reality check is that we are looking for candidates for what is still in essence a temporary job, of little appeal to anyone, especially anyone with family, to relocate long distances. So we gladly took Canon Val's offer to actively search on our behalf, not only in our diocese but also in adjoining states. This is also why we strongly encourage all members of St. Thomas to network their own connections to other churches, including to those non-Episcopalian churches in full communion with us, to identify more possible candidates. Please ask everyone to take an active part in this search. So far, Canon Val has already brought us an application from one candidate whom the Team will interview shortly.

Please support us with your prayers and with your participation in the search.  
Your Transition Team