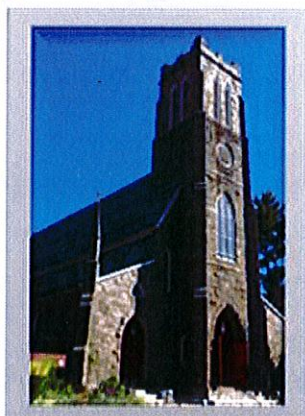


# Pray Hope Dream

August 31, 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Saint James',



As your Wardens we wanted to communicate to you what has been done thus far as a Parish in Transition and what you can expect in the short term. First, let us again thank Joseph for his pastoral leadership over the past nine years and wish him and Jim the best of luck in the future.

We have been fortunate at Saint James' that in the past 37 years we have had only 3 Rectors, Michael and Ann Coburn, Our Bishop Laura Ahrens and Joseph. So while a time of transition can be unsettling there is no reason to doubt that the result of our transition will be like all the others resulting in a Rector who will lead us for many years to come.

The Diocese anticipates that a transition will take somewhere from 12 to 18 months from the date Joseph departs. Your Vestry has already accomplished some tasks that will allow the transition to start ASAP. We have submitted our financials to the diocese and we have been allowed to recruit a full time Rector. Secondly, we have arranged for "supply priests" to Celebrate Sunday services. The Reverend Peter Powell will celebrate on September 2 and The Reverend Iris Peterson will celebrate for the remainder of September and into October as necessary. During that time the Canon for Mission Leadership will be recruiting an Interim Rector. The vestry has asked if Rev. Iris Peterson could be a candidate for Interim Priest and/or Rector and we were told that because of her past relationship to Saint James' she is not eligible to be a candidate for either position.

It is also diocesan policy that we should not be in contact with Joseph on social media after he leaves, including Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

Your Vestry has met with the Canon for Mission Leadership, The Reverend Lee Ann Tolzmann, who was reassuring and quite detailed in her explanation of the Transition Process. The Reverend Tolzmann, who will coordinate the transition process, will be at Saint James' on Sunday October 7, to explain the process for the entire congregation.

During the interim and until an Interim Rector is chosen the Wardens are designated to handle the day to day operations of the parish in consultation with the Vestry. Please see one of us with any concerns or issues, please do not go directly to Iris, Carolyn or any of the staff so that there can be consistency. Also, the Capital Campaign which had been scheduled for 2019 will be postponed.

There are many concerns, as is natural, but we would like to reassure the parish that your vestry is very engaged and determined to make this process as quick, thorough and productive as possible. Past history shows that we have always been blessed with a great spiritual leader(s). Let us all pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us during the Transition and Bless us with a Rector that will serve God's work for the benefit of Saint James' and beyond.

In Peace  
  
Joe Walkovich

  
Janet Brown