

## **St. Peter's Episcopal Church Parish Survey 2022**

This survey is a crucial step in our process of discernment. It will inform our parish profile, which also is a critical component in the recruitment of a new rector. Thank you for your careful attention to it.

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE SURVEY**

- 1) You may fill out the survey by printing it out and filling it in with a pen, and returning it to St. Peter's. Paper copies and pens will be available at the Sunday services between September 11th and the due date (October 9, 2022).
- 2) Each member of the household over the age of 16 may complete a copy of the survey.
- 3) To use the fillable version on your computer, and email the completed version please follow these steps:
  - a. Download the survey.
  - b. Save it to your computer.
  - c. Fill it out, by typing your answers on the form, and save a copy of the completed version. To complete open-ended questions, you will need to move your cursor to the beginning of each line, if your answer is more than one line long.
  - d. Return the completed version by email, to Jill Donovan, Search Committee Secretary, at [jdonovan@commonwealthcare.org](mailto:jdonovan@commonwealthcare.org).

## St. Peter's Episcopal Church Parish Survey 2022

Note: We are trying to gain the clearest possible picture of who we are. Please provide as much detail as comfort allows; please also remember that choosing not to answer is an option.

We will give serious consideration and respect to your issues, comments, and ideas. We have promised you confidentiality in completing the survey, and we intend to keep that commitment. We will publish only anonymized survey results—we will not identify commenters.

In addition to the survey, and during the period when it is open, one or two members of the Search Committee will be present each Sunday after the service, to field questions, and to ask questions, in order to gain deeper insight into issues related to the search.

Thank you for your thoughtful attention to the survey. *This is a time of transition for our parish. We appreciate and encourage your thoughts (and prayers) as we walk this path together.*

Search Committee members: Beth Jastrzembski (Co-chair), John Newman (Co-chair), Mike Bent, Jill Donovan, Dave Estep, Beth Kennedy, Marguerite Parkman, Ann Weeks, Margaret Smist (search consultant).

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All information you share will be kept confidential.

### Part 1: Demographics

Name (optional). \_\_\_\_\_.

Ages of all members of your household. \_\_\_\_\_.

Status: Single \_\_\_ Married/Domestic Partner \_\_\_ Divorced \_\_\_ Separated \_\_\_ Widowed \_\_\_.

How often did you attend church pre-Covid? How often since reopening?

|                 | Every Sunday | 1-3 times/month | A few times/year | Not at all |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------|------------|
| Before Covid    |              |                 |                  |            |
| Since reopening |              |                 |                  |            |

Which Service do you most frequently attend? 8 AM \_\_\_ 10 AM \_\_\_ online \_\_\_.

How long have you attended St. Peter's? 0-5 years \_\_\_ 6-15 years \_\_\_ 16-25 years \_\_\_

26-35 years \_\_\_ Over 35 years \_\_\_.

Do you participate in one or more of the activities of the church? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_.

Do you feel there are opportunities to participate in lay ministries? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_.

Is it easy for a new member to become involved in the life of the church? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_.

We view ourselves as an inclusive congregation (race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity). If this is your experience, please explain; if it is not your experience, please explain.

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Please provide anything else about yourself or your identity that you feel is important (e.g., prior religious affiliation).

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**Part 2: Our Key Issues, Concerns, and Ideas.**

**Please rate on scale of 1-5, 1 being Least Important to 5 being Most Important**

|   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Facilities Maintenance/Building Repair          |   |   |   |   |   |
| Community use of the facility                   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Music in the service                            |   |   |   |   |   |
| Communication from Vestry and church leadership |   |   |   |   |   |
| Communication (Keynotes, etc.)                  |   |   |   |   |   |
| Growing our membership                          |   |   |   |   |   |
| Financial Stability/Budget/ Stewardship         |   |   |   |   |   |
| Youth education and activities (under age 12)   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Teen programs (ages 13-18)                      |   |   |   |   |   |
| Activities for young adults                     |   |   |   |   |   |
| Activities for young families                   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Programs for special groups (Moms, Dads, Teens) |   |   |   |   |   |
| Outreach (e.g., Community suppers, Bootstraps)  |   |   |   |   |   |
| Fellowship                                      |   |   |   |   |   |
| Adult Spiritual Formation                       |   |   |   |   |   |

**Any Additional Comments:**

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**Church Relations**

|  | Agree | Disagree | No Opinion |
|--|-------|----------|------------|
| The parish maintains close relationships with the deanery, the diocese, and national church. |       |          |            |
| The parish maintains relationships with other denominations in the community.                |       |          |            |
| The parish maintains relationships with other Episcopal churches in the area.                |       |          |            |

**Quality of Congregational Life**

**Are we currently doing these things well? Please answer this section based on your experience over the past 5-10 years.**

|   | Agree | Disagree | No Opinion |
|---|-------|----------|------------|
| A priest is available for pastoral counseling.            |       |          |            |
| Newcomers are welcomed and involved.                      |       |          |            |
| The parish ministers to persons in need.                  |       |          |            |
| The pastoral needs of senior citizens are addressed.      |       |          |            |
| Shut-ins are visited on a regular basis.                  |       |          |            |
| The parish organizes and sponsors fellowship activities.  |       |          |            |
| Fellowship activities are provided for youth 3-12.        |       |          |            |
| Fellowship activities are provided for youth 13-18.       |       |          |            |
| The church actively encourages young adult participation. |       |          |            |

**Part 3: What we want in the future**

**Church Functions: Please scale these items from 1-5, 1 being Least Important to 5 being Most Important.**

|  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Celebrating Eucharist and Sacraments.                        |   |   |   |   |   |
| Music in the service   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Livestreaming the service                                    |   |   |   |   |   |
| Pastoral care/ministry during personal crisis                |   |   |   |   |   |
| Communicating the Gospel.                                    |   |   |   |   |   |
| <b>Christian Education</b>                                   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Pre-school to grade 6  |   |   |   |   |   |
| Gr7-High School  |   |   |   |   |   |
| Adult  |   |   |   |   |   |
| Developing personal spiritual growth and ministry            |   |   |   |   |   |
| Seeking and adding new members                               |   |   |   |   |   |
| Developing church community and fellowship                   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Supporting outreach/service activities in the town community |   |   |   |   |   |
| Encourage involvement in addressing social justice issues    |   |   |   |   |   |
| Stewardship and fundraising (e.g., Church Fair)              |   |   |   |   |   |

**Given recent experience with Covid restrictions, etc., what aspects of the new way of doing things would you like to keep?**

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**Areas of Focus**

Our next Rector will be our Spiritual Leader, in charge of worship services, and will lead Vestry. In addition to these fundamental responsibilities, if it were up to you, where would you like our next Rector to specifically focus his/her/their time and effort. **Please choose 5, ranked in order of their importance to you (1 being Least Important to 5 being Most Important).** NOTE: If your choice is not listed below, please fill in the blank space and add it to your choice ranking.

\_\_\_ Adult Spiritual Formation and enrichment (e.g., book clubs and Bible studies).

\_\_\_ Youth Spiritual Formation and enrichment (e.g., Sunday School. Middle and High School Youth programs, service projects).

\_\_\_ Interfaith worship and worship with other congregations (e.g., Thanksgiving and summer programs).

\_\_\_ Fellowship activities held at St. Peter's (e.g., coffee hours and luncheons).

\_\_\_ Fellowship activities not held at St. Peter's (e.g., potluck suppers, women's and men's dinners, and youth activities).

\_\_\_ Outreach and Eucharist for parish homebound and shut-ins.

\_\_\_ Outreach/Mission work.

\_\_\_ Environmental and social activism.

\_\_\_ Fundraising Stewardship.

\_\_\_ Other area/s of focus not listed above:

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Below are listed some personal qualities. Which 5 of these do you consider most essential in our next rector? **Please mark them in order of their importance to you (1 being Least Important to 5 being Most Important).** NOTE: if a quality is not listed, please write it in at the bottom of the list and rank it.

\_\_\_ Approachable demeanor, easy to talk with and good listener.

\_\_\_ Visionary leader. Organized and follows through, works well as a member and leader of teams.

\_\_\_ Preaching skills. Touches our hearts and minds with content and delivery that fits us, and makes visitors want to come back.

\_\_\_ Behaves with integrity, respectful, inclusive, has a sense of his/her/their strengths and weaknesses, confident yet humble.

\_\_\_ Spiritual guide. Has an active prayer life; can give spiritual guidance, maintains life balance.

\_\_\_ Smart, curious, well educated, creative.

\_\_\_ Communicates well in large and small groups and states thoughts clearly.

\_\_\_ Enjoys and uses humor, emotionally grounded. Does not take himself/herself/themself too seriously.

\_\_\_ Potential to grow with us. Lifelong learner, open to advice, has experience in life and as a priest that will enable him/her/them to be a strong partner.

\_\_\_ Creative and Innovative. Open to new ideas and new ways of doing things. Moving outside comfort zone.

\_\_\_ Inspired to take action, and to motivate others to act on and support causes in environmental and social justice.

Other personal quality:

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**Any Additional Comments:**

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***Please return your completed survey by October 9, 2022 to St. Peter's (if you fill out a hard copy), or you can email a filled, saved .pdf to Jill Donovan, Search Committee Secretary, at [jdonovan@commonwealthcare.org](mailto:jdonovan@commonwealthcare.org). Thank you for your attention to this!***