

Transition Committee Report

What seems like a lifetime ago, we were formed to assist with the transition process brought about by the departure of Sara, our previous incumbent. Our job was not to do everything, but to initiate and coordinate. This report is a story not of our committee, but of our community.

Helping Manage the Change

We all have to live with and help manage the transition -- the sadness and trepidation but also the hope and excitement. We as a community have risen to the task.

Sarabration

I think that everyone who attended will remember the "Sarabration" that occurred. Yes, there was a magnificent celebration event. There were also a lot of less noticed, but equally important events, gifts and other things that happened in the shadow of this major event.

If you have ever organized a celebration on this level, you would know what type of costs are involved. We had the task of pulling together a dinner for close to 250 people, organizing other related celebrations and at the same time raising money for the traditional gift of a "purse". Both the committee and the community should be congratulated on doing something this major with great quality and with great savings to the community. After the event we did review all of the finances and while this is not a financial report, we have provided an analysis to the wardens and to other members of the committee.

Parish Profile

Another major accomplishment of our community was the incredible parish profile that was produced and which has shown such a wonderful view of Holy Trinity to the world and sometimes to ourselves as well. It was terrific at a recent budget meeting to hear someone quote from it as a way of helping to understand our goals and hopes for the future.

After the departure of Sara, our activities moved into the background as the Selection Committee took prominence in the search for an incumbent. As a committee and as a community we were thrown into other activities. Christmas brought the annual Christmas Story work for many. We also had a great deal of work, negotiation and effort that went into our hosting Bishop Yu. We have not been idle.

Governance

There is a sense from the committee that it is time to re-engage with our task of helping manage the change. While the welcoming of the new incumbent is some time away, another piece of our mandate beckons and becomes increasingly important. It is indeed time for us to have a community discussion about how we are governed – what is the appropriate mechanism, model or whatever one might call it. However you describe it, it is important. We've been so fortunate to have such a wonderful interim appointment with the Reverend Dianne Mesh. But the vacuum created when Sara left really did show that we had many things in our governance structures which might be seen as challenging at best and dysfunctional at worst. No matter how you choose to characterize it, we owe it to ourselves and our new incumbent to get ourselves organized and on a path to take us into the future.

Future Growth

For if there is one concern that we all seem to share in at this point, it is a real concern for our future growth. There is an emerging consensus that we have an incredible challenge facing us. We all recognize it. We are all struggling with it. We have some very positive things happening, but we have to decide if that state of disarray that we often find ourselves in is part of our charm, or one of our obstacles to growth.

We as a community need to focus on this in the coming months. The transition committee is meeting in the coming weeks to attempt to propose the best ways that we can have the discussions that we so dearly need to have.