

Discernment Team Update December 21, 2016 Angelus (newsletter)

The Discernment Team (formerly Rector Search Committee) met on Saturday, December 10, to lay the groundwork for a working covenant. The group discussed the differences between a committee and a team, and between a contract and a covenant. Through Bible study, the team pursued a greater understanding of covenant, and how that covenant might exist within the team and between the team and the parish.

Following this, the team then worked to determine core values, and chose Faith, Openness, Trustworthiness and Respect to be at the foundation of our work.

Faith: Jesus Christ is at the center of our lives and our process as a team. God is leading us through the process and we will have faith in each other and what each of us brings to the process.

Openness: We will listen to understand, share our thoughts and be vulnerable with each other. We will bring a spirit of inquiry and be open to process changes and reflect upon pre-conceived notions.

Trustworthiness: We acknowledge that confidentiality and holding shared vulnerabilities are sacred. We will honor the trust given to us by the congregation by doing the best we can as faithfully as we know how, and will reciprocate the trust God has given us. We will be accountable.

Respect: We will be generous listeners, extending grace in all things to each other. We will be authentic and truthful, but with love, kindness, and compassion.

The team agreed that our purpose is to discern the work of the Holy Spirit and our objective is to call a rector who will faithfully lead Emmanuel Church.

The team will meet again for a workshop on January 7 and will begin monthly meetings on Tuesday, February 7.

Discernment Prayer

God our Father, you have a plan for each one of us. You hold out to us a future full of hope. Give us the wisdom of your Spirit so that we can see the shape of your plan in the gifts you have given us, and in the circumstances of our daily lives. Give us the freedom of your Spirit to seek you with all our hearts, and to choose Your Will above all else. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.