



St. James' Parish Profile 2024

Parish Input Summary

The Rector Search Committee collected information from the parish in three ways:

- 1) Office Hours – In-person and online listening sessions – approximately 30 parishioners participated
- 2) Parish Survey – completed by 83 parishioners
- 3) Committee members reached out directly to Church Staff and various Ministry Leaders

Summary of key Survey Results used in the Parish Profile:

Skills and Priorities of the Next Rector

The following were identified as the top five “Essential Skills” for the next Rector of St. James’:

- Preaching: ability to preach effectively by making the Gospel relevant to people's lives
- Management: ability to work collaboratively with staff, Vestry, and lay leaders
- Liturgy: ability to plan and conduct Episcopal based liturgical services in a variety of styles at multiple weekly services
- Pastoral Care: ability to nurture and equip people for growth within the community of faith, and provide pastoral response at significant life stages, e.g., death, dying, sickness, birth, crisis, success, including caring through home and hospital calling
- Church Growth/Development: ability to inspire members to be actively engaged with the church and the willingness to explore new ways to attract & engage new members

The following were identified as the top five “Priorities” for the next Rector:

- Being open & welcoming to all
- Planning and leading multiple diverse worship services sensitive to the needs and preferences of the congregation, honoring both traditional and contemporary styles
- Providing administrative leadership for staff & ministries of St. James'
- Attending to the spiritual development of members
- Developing and supporting Christian education programs for children and youth

Tasks of the Church

The following were identified as areas where more focus may be needed:

- Providing fellowship opportunities for members
- Providing Christian education for children and youth through Sunday School, youth groups and programming
- Helping members discover their own gifts for ministry and service
- Providing Christian education for adults
- Helping members understand their use of money, time and talents as expressions of Christian stewardship

The following were identified as strengths of St. James’:

- Members help each other out in times of trouble
- Parishioners feel that their spiritual needs are being met at St. James'
- St. James’ is strongly focused on serving the wider community beyond the congregation
- Members are well informed about what the various committees and groups at St. James' are doing
- Parishioners have a sense of excitement about St. James' future

Other notable findings:

- Overall, the comments received at “Office Hours” were consistent with the Survey results and comments.
- Being “open and welcoming to all” was consistently mentioned and rated as an important priority for St. James’.
- There is widespread support for maintaining our three diverse Sunday worship services.
- Our parishioners come from diverse denominational backgrounds: of the Survey respondents, 33% were raised Episcopalian/Anglican, while 29% were raised Roman Catholic and 34% were raised in other Protestant denominations.
- Several people mentioned a “sense of humor” as an important characteristic of the next Rector.
- Many Office Hours participants and a large majority of Survey respondents (75%) said that St. James’ should continue the momentum and the environment that has been building over the past several years.
- 87% of Survey respondents had a positive sense of excitement about St. James’ future.

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