

St. Elisabeth Search Committee
Small Group Session Highlights and Annual Meeting Review
January 26, 2020

Question 1: What is unique about our church?

- St. E's is small, intimate, and warm.
- The people - it feels good to be with the people at St. E's. It feels like a family, everyone knows everyone, there is a place for everyone.
- St. E's is inclusive, there are no cliques or in or out crowds, no judgement or shaming. There is acceptance here.
- St. E's is friendly, authentic, casual, come as you are.
- There is an openness to exploration, experimentation, questioning and evolving.
- The building, grounds and labyrinth.
- The music and liturgy is experimental and fresh, yet rooted in tradition. The worship mix is historic and ancient while being contemporary and forward looking.

Question 2: Why do you come/stay here?

- St. E's feels like a safe place; acceptance.
- The small, family feel. Memories, connection, and family tradition.
- St. E's is not static, there is willingness to renew.
- God is truly present at St. E's. I come to worship with my church family.
- Everyone and all generations have a role, get along together.
- Meaningful, thoughtful preaching and ritual.
- Music! We come to listen to the music, sing in the choir.
- The liturgy, which has combines continuity and experimentation.
- Outreach projects, the BHAG, etc.
- Fellowship, i.e. coffee hour, the coffee shop, lots of COFFEE! (kids like coffee hour, too!)

Question 3: Where are we headed?

- More of the same, continue what we're doing.
- Do more community outreach and engagement. Support people broken by life's circumstances.
- Do more programs like Family Promise, BHAG initiatives, etc.
- Fulfill our mission within and beyond our red doors.
- More opportunities for children's formation, including children's choir
- More innovative and vibrant engagement of youth.
- Start a youth group, including partnering with other churches.
- Continue the great music, liturgy and openness to experimentation, etc.
- Improve our presence in the community, more PR. Become a destination church.
- Grow, increase numbers.

Question 4: What holds us back?

- Our small size, too few people doing too many things.
- People are busy! Modern life is hectic.

- Lack of flexibility regarding scheduling, being wedded to the Sunday AM scheduling, need to explore other options for engaging people.
- Children's programming.
- Time and budget constraints.
- The building is old and expensive to maintain.
- We have no events/outreach committee to do communications, PR, advertising, etc.
- No one knows how great we are but us!
- Complacency; we need to be bolder, not fear failure.
- Need to be willing to give things up if they aren't resonating.

Question 5: What rector characteristics and skills would we like?

- Someone like Kevin! And Dillon, too!
- Excellent pastoral skills, empathetic, compassionate, high EQ
- A good listener
- Warm, authentic, genuine, charming, makes immediate connections with people
- Sense of humor, fun loving
- Playful, enjoys children, wants to spend time and engage with them
- Able to relate to young people, 30 years old and under
- Outgoing, extrovert, confident, self-aware, comfortable in their own skin
- Engaging, inspiring, thought provoking and intellectually challenging preaching/sermons
- Experimental, open minded, someone comfortable and excited by change
- Smart, well-educated, has understanding of Church history
- Liberal theology, non-literal interpretation of scripture, doctrine, etc.
- Music! Someone who appreciates music and is willing to continue St. E's style
- A relaxed, modern, contemporary attitude
- Knows how to work a room
- Excellent leadership and administration skills; good balance of executive and pastoral skills
- Inspires others (parishioners) to volunteer and lead
- Able to get along with others and manage conflict
- Be willing to listen, not have pre-conceived agenda, be flexible
- Be able to delegate, not micromange and not be controlling or rigid
- Someone who starts with "yes, thank you, I love you."
- Someone comfortable with lay people and lay ministries/task forces
- Someone who is comfortable with and can reach out to others, ie interfaith, LGBTQ, unaffiliated,
- Respectful of all opinions
- A teacher and storyteller