

WE WANT TO KNOW YOUR STORY!

As predicted in our update last month, the time has now come for EVERYONE in the congregation to participate in planning the way forward for our Parish.

We need to involve virtually every member of the Parish in both the survey and the discussion groups that we alluded to previously. This is not “either/or”, as the type of information gained from these two different processes is complementary and co-equal.

Discussion Groups

Throughout December your transition team is inviting you to participate in one of many discussion groups being held in different locations and at different times. Everyone over the age of 16 is encouraged to attend. Look for sign-up sheets for specific dates and locations. Steve Petite is coordinating this part of the process. The discussion groups will explore a series of questions about the future of Trinity and the results will help inform our direction going forward, and our search for a new Rector. These groups will meet in parishioners' homes, in the church at a variety of times, Plymouth Village and at a local brew pub. Please be ready to sign up to join one of these groups when the dates and times are announced. Please contact Steve redlndsca2@gmail.com if you have questions about the discussion groups or are not signed up for a group by mid-December.

Survey

As you know, we recently agreed to move forward with HolyCow! Consulting to help us plan our future. They are highly experienced at helping congregations and other groups undergoing transition. Check them out if you wish at <https://holycowconsulting.com/> . We have also included a brief PowerPoint about the company which you can view by clicking the picture above.

After our discussion groups, the next step on our journey is to conduct a the congregational assessment from HolyCow!. This assessment will provide a clear picture of who we are as a church and what directions are most important for our future. The tool we'll use is the Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT), which will provide key indicators of our congregational health along with areas of challenge and potential growth. It will help us to collect and understand the range of views that exist at Trinity and the possibilities, willingness, capacity and energy for moving our ministry into the future. The information gained from this assessment will help Trinity's leadership make decisions about our future.

If you are currently receiving emails from Trinity, shortly after Christmas you will receive a unique web link to complete the assessment online. The survey works best when taken electronically, but your survey committee will work with all parishioners either to do the survey on paper or to have laptops and technical assistance available at a convenient place and time for those who are a bit uneasy about interacting with electronic devices.

If you would prefer to take the assessment using a paper copy, please stop by the office, and we will provide one for you along with a self-addressed stamped envelope. (If you are not on our email list and consider yourself a member of Trinity, please contact the parish administrator at office@tec-redlands.org .)

NOTE: If there is only one email address for all members of your household, it may be tempting to have one person take the survey on behalf of the family. However, please be sure your spouse and all young adults living in your home have an opportunity to complete the survey. INDIVIDUAL INPUT is key to our gaining insight into overall perceptions and experiences.

Please set aside enough time to answer all the questions. This will take about 20 – 25 minutes. All survey responses are strictly anonymous.

Thank you for your willingness to be a part of this congregational assessment and for helping to build the future of Trinity Episcopal Church, Redlands.

If you have questions, please contact Bob Bourne drbobbourne@gmail.com [(951)-906-4910], or Gerald Penilla geraldp1983@gmail.com [(909) 744-4374].