

## Music Director Search Status Update

In September 2023, at the direction of Rector Mother Jessica Holthus and the Vestry, a search committee was formed to begin the discernment process of selecting a Director of Music to serve in a full-time capacity here at St. Anne's Episcopal Church. The committee was commissioned during worship on September 17 and is comprised of of St. Anne's parishioners: Kurt Wilkinson (Committee Chair), Marian Egge, Haze Hanna, Alicia Narvaez Hernandez, Paul Jones and Rick Melrose.

Following several weeks of preparation, on September 27, 2023, the Search Committee released a detailed survey to obtain input from members of the St. Anne's community. The purpose of the survey was to gather input from the congregation relating to the development and growth of the music program(s) for adults and children, types of worship music desired by the parish, the involvement of the new Music Director with the clergy to develop the music to fit the liturgical calendar, development of the overall skills/abilities of the choir, recruiting of new choir members, and overall impact of music on the growth of St. Anne's. While we awaited responses to the survey, we also conducted five listening circles to encourage free-flowing conversation and input about the music program(s) and the search for a new Music Director. We held four in-person at St. Anne's and one online via zoom to maximize access by all interested parishioners.

With over 100 responses to the survey and input from 35 participants in the listening circles, the committee developed an in-depth position description for Mtr Jess' approval. In early November, the Music Director position was posted to encourage responses from qualified candidates. In addition to resumes and cover letters, candidates were encouraged to provide sample videos of musical performances for committee review. Over the past month, the Search Committee has been screening applications and conducting multiple phone interviews.

During the week of Thanksgiving, in conjunction with Mtr Jess, we began the formal interview process, including musical auditions by the candidates. We are excited about the number, quality and diversity of the applicants that have applied, and we are optimistic that we will be able to finalize the interviews and hire the right Director of Music to begin supporting St. Anne's beginning sometime in the first quarter of 2024.