

Dear St. John family and friends,

Thank you to all who attended the January 15 Voter's Meeting. A 90 minute meeting – with spirited and thoughtful discussion – ended with the decision to begin the search process for a full-time Director of Discipleship Ministries and a half-time Director of Children's Ministries. The Staffing Task Force will now start those searches, alongside of the search for the Director of Contemporary Worship and Special Services.

There was strong support for both of the new positions, particularly the Director of Children's Ministries, but the votes were not unanimous. The Task Force hears the concerns raised.

We have felt God's guidance and leadership throughout this process. Your prayers and participation have been and will be invaluable. We are committed to finding individuals for each position that bring qualifications for the specific role, and who will be a good "fit" with our current team, our congregation and our community. While our preferred timeline is to bring them all on board this summer, we do not feel there is a rush to fill positions until the "right" people are found.

So it all continues in God's hands! Please persist in prayer, now specifically praying that we find those right individuals to serve alongside of us here. We will take the time necessary, and the positions will remain vacant until they are appropriately filled.

All of these ideas and plans depend on each of us continuing to participate in the ministry at St. John and in Vancouver. Our mission – "God has called us to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, administer the Sacraments and minister to the needs and hopes of the people in our Congregation, our community and the world" – is a HUGE undertaking. We have now made a commitment to seek staff to join us in fulfilling that mission. Let's see what God has in store! To Him be the glory!

The Task Force will provide regular updates in the newsletter and on our church website. If you ever have questions or ideas, please reach out to any one of us.

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Sarah Bourne

Kate Schramper

Dan Constein Sue Wiebold

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Pastor Larson