



Good Shepherd E-News, Transition Process (1 May 2018)

The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Athens, Ohio, is a diverse, welcoming, growing congregation, committed to seeking and serving Christ in all persons.

The Transition Process

On behalf of the Vestry, as Senior Warden, I am writing this to invite parishioners to participate in Mother Deborah's transition process. As you recall, in the fall we were to go through a "discernment" process following the three-year term of Mo. Deborah as Priest-in-charge. For whatever reasons, that process got postponed. Since January, Bishop Breidenthal has extended Mo. Deborah's Letter of Appointment on a month-by-month basis. The original process would have taken up to six months. But now, under the guidance of the Rev. Canon Jason Leo, Missioner for Congregational Vitality, the plan is to move Mo. Deborah from Priest-in-charge to Rector, completing the process by the third week of July. Canon Leo wishes that the process be quick, easy, and positive.

Over the next twelve weeks, I will be sending out three questions eliciting responses from the congregation that will help the Vestry make the decision to call Mo. Deborah as our Rector. The plan is that beginning May 6, the congregation will receive a question directed at the spiritual life of Good Shepherd every three weeks. The period of three weeks between each question gives everyone time to consider prayerfully their response and to turn it in (explained below). The remaining two questions will be submitted to the congregation on May 27 and on June 17, respectively.

The responses will be treated as **anonymous**. You may put your response in the offering plates, or in a special basket so marked in the Narthex, or in my mail box in the lobby outside the church office, or you may mail them to the church office.

In my capacity as Sr. Warden, I will transcribe the responses received for each question into documents to share with the Vestry and with Canon Leo. Only Vestry and Canon Leo will read those responses. The original responses will be destroyed once I put them into the documents. Once the responses for the three questions have been

received and studied, Canon Leo will meet with Vestry. His plan is that on Sunday, July 29, he will return to Athens to announce, and to celebrate in an all-parish meeting the decision that Vestry has made.

The first question for the congregation is

Where are we as a congregation now?

We would like to have your response to this first question on or before Sunday, May 27.

If you have questions, you may ask any Vestry member.

Sincerely,

David Burton, Sr. Warden (drabeja02@yahoo.com)