

Grace Church Congregational Meet and Greet

January 12, 2020

The Five Questions:

- 1. Remember a moment that was a high point, when you felt our church was doing God’s work and fulfilling its mission... What was happening?**

Easter Vigil	Persevering through expansion (helping others outside church)	Vacation Bible School Coordination in the absence of a Coordinator
Mission Trip to Belize	Energy to continue Carleton’s ministry	Evening walking with Grace
Activities with a common purpose	Youth participate in services	Veterans Day
Small groups	Blessing of Animals	Newcomers
EYC	Stop Hunger Now	Backpack Ministry
Multi-congregational fellowship	High School Graduates speaking at church service	Community through Communion
Food drive	The daily taking care of each other	Veterans Day – Tom blessing the flags
PORT	Labyrinth outreach	

- 2. Name the three things you value about your congregation.**

Diversity	Opportunities to learn	Kindness
Freedom of expression, especially the ability to disagree	Inclusive congregation	Community
Caring about each other	Art	Thanksgiving Basket
Small groups	Volunteer opportunities	Passionate clergy
Sermon Teachings	Involvement of lay people	Open/warmth/friendliness to newcomers
Acceptance of all views	Family support	Authentic
Outreach	Deep spiritual leadership	Youth are valued
Growing Facebook groups	Support for individual growth	

3. Look back over your entire life . . . recall a time when you most appreciated the ministry of a priest. What was happening? What did you appreciate?

Rector/Assistant Rector present during difficult times, crises, births, deaths	Funeral after the death of the spouse	Outreach
Priests' sermons are more sharing of their own experiences rather than preaching at us	Challenged about what I thought I knew	Marriages
Ministry of Priest during Easter	Priest being part of all our lives	Hours devoted to service
Meeting us where we are	Meetings with priests	Active pastoral care
Lay people visits during deaths/illnesses	Authenticity	Pastoral care/laity care
Vulnerable priests	Counseling	Baptism
Support to family when needed		

4. What will be our congregation's 3 most exciting, energizing and important accomplishments to you over the next 3 years?

Balancing the budget	50% of the congregation under the age of 50	Active youth program/ministry
Complete Riverview and explore new opportunities	New ways to minister	Fully staffed
Expanding facility to meet more of the community's needs	Appreciation of art and environment	Start fresh – embrace new leader
Welcome new minister	Hugely growing pledges	More community involvement
Pay off debts	Welcoming young families	

5. What is your vision for Grace in the future?

A thriving, open parish	Present as an active element in the Yorktown community	Open and inclusive
Kind	Continuing and broadening	In-depth spirituality
Healing spirituality	Remain the Beacon	Youth programs
Community of love and kindness	Conventional and non-conventional	Welcoming
Solvent	Strong and compassionate clergy	Family focused
Value ourselves	A restorative place	Reflect God's love
Financial stability	Continuing to thrive for the next 300 years	