

## **St. Peter's Church Rector Job Description/Advertisement**

St. Peter's Church, in a historic neighborhood of Philadelphia, is a vibrant community where different types of people come together to ask life's deep questions, to enter life-giving relationships, and experience authentic community.

We are seeking our next Rector to walk alongside us in our journey with Christ. Ideal applicants will be curiously courageous with salient communication skills, a healing heart, dynamic administrative acumen, and an ability to connect and collaborate with people inside and beyond our walls.

We believe that all people are beloved by God and are of equal worth and dignity; we have many leaders and parishioners in the LGBTQ+ community. We raise our voices for justice and look for ways to serve our neighbors and our city through our weekly Food Cupboard and other social justice initiatives. We seek a Rector who will share our commitment to radical welcoming and deep belonging, and a Rector who will help us build a beloved community where every soul feels seen and valued.

Our members range in age – we have a lively Family Worship service for children age 6 and younger. We also have active ministries for those in their 20s/30s, 40s/50s, and 60+. We seek leadership who will help foster these strong ministries, and also invite, encourage, and empower us to cross these silos. Our next Rector will help us build the spiritual and physical infrastructure for intergenerational connection and community building. One project currently underway is plans to build a long-anticipated and new, purpose-built Parish House.

We seek a Rector with collaborative leadership experience and a deep spiritual life, dedicated to pastoral care. Our next Rector will join with us in welcoming visitors and speaking to the needs of parishioners in their daily lives. Our worship combines Episcopal liturgy in a low-church tradition with alternative prayers and intercessions, as approved by the Bishop. The clergy collaborate closely with parishioners of all generations and genders who prepare the altar, help administer the Eucharist, deliver the readings, prayers, and sometimes even preach. We hope to continue a tradition of sermons delivered by a Rector with oratorical skills and theological depth who walks beside us boldly into God's future.

In addition to fostering meaningful worship, enlivening our fellowship is a central task. We strive to be a community that creates opportunities for our members to come together in supportive fellowship and meaningful encounters with God. Lay leadership is an essential component of the St. Peter's Church community. Indeed, some have been

called to create additional worship, educational, and fellowship opportunities for our members such as a cooking class for those living with Parkinson's and Taizé services. As a result, our future Rector needs to be a skilled collaborator able to support lay leaders and staff members when needed, but with the wisdom and fortitude to sit back and be hands-off when not needed.

St. Peter's parishioners share strong, powerful emotions over the church's recent tumultuous events and shifts in leadership. We seek a Rector who can guide us to steward trust and belief in one another. Parishioners are eager to move forward, and we seek a spiritual leader who can harness and channel our community's passions and energy into a thoughtful and life-giving process to discern the role and identity of St. Peter's. We seek leadership that excels in guiding a parish through transition, challenging and inspiring us through that journey.

We seek an engaged priest for all - those formally in our parish, those in our neighborhood, and anyone who does not know/believe they need a priest or a religious community. We are led to connect more fully with our neighborhood, city, and region. We are not – and historically never have been – a community that faces only inward. God is leading us out into the world, and we intend to follow.

If you are interested in exploring God's call to serve as Rector of St. Peter's Church, please submit a cover letter, resume, and Office for Transition Ministry (OTM) materials to The Rev. Canon Jane Gober at [jgober@diopa.org](mailto:jgober@diopa.org).