

A Message from the Rector Search Committee

Dear Members and Friends of St. Peter's,

It is with great joy and gratitude that we share the news that Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson has accepted our call to serve as the next Rector of St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

This moment represents the culmination of more than two years of prayer, discernment, conversation, and faithful work. On behalf of the Search Committee, we would first like to thank the entire congregation for your patience, encouragement, and prayers throughout this journey.

Serving on this committee has been one of the greatest honors of our lives.

From the beginning, we understood the significance of the task before us. St. Peter's was not simply seeking a new rector. We were seeking the person called to follow a beloved forty-three-year pastorate and help lead this remarkable parish into its next chapter.

That responsibility weighed heavily on all of us.

Throughout the search process, we interviewed many gifted priests. Some were strong preachers. Some were exceptional pastors. Others brought significant leadership experience. Yet with each candidate, we found ourselves returning to the same question:

Who is the right fit for St. Peter's?

As the process continued, something important happened. The committee became increasingly clear about the qualities we were truly seeking. We learned to listen not only to candidates' resumes, but to our own hearts. We identified moments of alignment and moments of disconnect. We refined our parish profile and sharpened our understanding of what St. Peter's truly needed.

In February, after a period of disappointment and uncertainty, we found ourselves at an important crossroads. Rather than lowering our expectations or compromising our vision, we returned to prayer and discernment. During the season of Lent, we engaged in the difficult work of reflection. Looking back, what felt like a setback at the time ultimately became a turning point. The committee emerged more unified than ever, with a clearer understanding of the gifts and qualities required to lead this parish.

When Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson entered the process, we immediately recognized many of those qualities.

What was especially meaningful to us is that the feeling was mutual. In his cover letter, Rev. Buisson spoke about how our parish profile resonated deeply with his own sense of calling and ministry. The profile that emerged from our discernment helped us recognize one another.

Over time, through his written materials, interviews, references, and ultimately his visit to Geneva, those first impressions were consistently confirmed.

We found in Rev. Buisson a person of deep and authentic faith, whose ministry is centered firmly on Jesus Christ and the Gospel. We found a gifted preacher and teacher who approaches pastoral care through presence, compassion, and genuine love of neighbor. We found an experienced leader who understands that administration, stewardship, and organizational leadership are not distractions from ministry, but tools that support it. And we found someone who demonstrated a sincere enthusiasm for the people, ministries, traditions, and future of St. Peter's.

Most importantly, we found someone who fell in love with this parish.

As many of you know, St. Peter's is a special place. It is a place where people care deeply about one another, where relationships matter, where music and worship enrich our lives, where outreach extends beyond our walls, and where faith is lived out in community. Once we found the right candidate, it became remarkably easy for that candidate to recognize what so many of us already know: St. Peter's is a place worth loving.

At this moment, we would also like to express our profound gratitude to the Vestry. During a lengthy vacancy, the Vestry carried an extraordinary responsibility on behalf of the congregation. Their steady leadership, wisdom, and unwavering support provided the foundation that allowed this search process to succeed. On more than one occasion, when the committee questioned its direction or grew discouraged, the Vestry responded with encouragement, confidence, and grace. We are deeply grateful for their partnership.

We would also like to thank every member of the Search Committee. Over two years, we prayed together, wrestled with difficult questions, celebrated successes, and worked through disappointments. What sustained us throughout the process was our shared love for St. Peter's and our commitment to one another. We did not always agree, but we remained united in our desire to serve this parish faithfully.

As we welcome Rev. Buisson and Sophie to Geneva, we do so with excitement, gratitude, and hope. We believe God has been faithfully guiding this process from the beginning, and we are eager to see what the next chapter of St. Peter's life will bring.

Thank you for trusting us with this responsibility. It has been a privilege and an honor to serve this parish.

With gratitude and hope,

Deb Proffitt and Greg VanLaeken

Co-Chairs, Rector Search Committee

